Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support delaying federalization to December 2010?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

As of September 28, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

RP Flood

Flood waters from a storm that set off the worst flooding in Manila in years receded, leaving about 80 dead.

ASIA...Page 15

New Film

Academy Award winner Julia Roberts shoots her new film, "Eat, Pray, Love" in India.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

Eight autonomous agencies owe Fund $23.4M. PAGE 3
High court: CUC power rate hike unconstitutional. PAGE 5

Calvo is found guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Businessman Patrick Mendiola Calvo was found guilty yesterday of sexually abusing a 13-year-old girl in 2008.

Calvo

After deliberating for a few hours, the six jurors in the Superior Court pronounced the 47-year-old Calvo guilty of sexual assault in

See CALVO on Page 4

$28.4M drop in business gross revenue

CNMI economic indicators down in 2nd quarter

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's major economic indicators have gone down, including a $28.4 million drop in business gross revenue in just a three-month period.

Business gross revenue or the total sales of registered businesses in the CNMI reached only $395.72 million in April to June 2009, a 6-percent decrease from $423.96 million in the same quarter in 2008.

See REVENUE on Page 4

OF CUC'S 21 ENGINES AT 3 POWER PLANTS

16 engines working, 5 under repair

Power reserve currently at 11 megawatts

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

SPECIAL REPORT

Of the 21 power engines at three power plants on Saipan, five are still undergoing repairs but the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. assures that it is producing more than enough power to meet the island's total demand.

In a status briefing held Friday, CUC assistant executive director for operations Abe Utu Malae said that CUC's power plants 1, 2, and 4 are currently producing a total of 53.2 megawatts. The island's peak demand so far this year is at 42

See ENGINES on Page 4

DIESEL ENGINE	DESIGN MW	AVAILABLE MW	STATUS
Power Plant 1:			
No. 1	7.1	5.0	
No. 2	7.1	5.0	
No. 3	7.1	5.0	
No. 5	12.6	0.0	major overhaul/ exp.completion Thanksgiving
No. 6	12.6	8.0	
No. 7	12.6	10.0	
No. 8	12.6	4.0	On emergency standby/ foundation, bolts, concrete
Power Plant 2:			
No. 1	2.5	2	
No. 2	2.5	0	Ongoing major overhaul
No. 4	2.5	2	
No. 5	2.5	2	
Power Plant 4:			
No. 2	2.5MW	0	Undergoing repairs
No. 3	2.5	0	Undergoing repairs
No. 4	2.5	2.2	
No. 5	2.5	2.2	
No. 6	1MW	.9	
No. 7	1MW	.9	
No. 8	1MW	.9	
No. 9	1MW	.9	
No. 10	2.5MW	2.2	

Total power available from Power Plant No. 1: **37.0 Megawatts**
Total power available from Power Plant No. 2: **6.0 Megawatts**
Total power available from Power Plant No. 4: **10.2 Megawatts**
Total power available to CUC from three power plants: **53.2 Megawatts**
Peak load for the year (Monday, September 8): **42 Megawatts**
Thus the reserve is: **53.2 – 42 = 11 Megawatts**

Fitial warns of management crisis at CUC

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial warns of a management crisis at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. if a new law gives the board of directors the authority to manage the daily operations of the corporation and requires technical qualification for board membership.

"Errors in wording in the CUC enabling legislation recently re-enacted, Public Law 16-17, as amended, would bar the executive director from day-to-day management of the corporation, effectively shutting CUC down," the

See FITIAL on Page 4

$4.8M SEAWALL PROJECT HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A GPPC Inc. employee works on the over $4.8 million seawall replacement project at the Smiling Cove Marina yesterday. Once completed in February 2010, the U.S. National Park Service project will not only provide a stable 800-ft.-seawall but will also provide more parking spaces and a walkway with stainless railings. ***See related story on Page 5.***

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Local

Bidder protests 'flawed' CPA decision on PA project

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One of the seven bidders of the federally funded public address system project of the Commonwealth Ports Authority has protested the agency's choice, claiming the decision is "flawed" and "illegal."

However, in a decision issued Friday, CPA denied the accusation, saying the move to pick RadioCom to install the airport's PA system was based on the fact that the company submitted the lowest bid.

CPA had announced the project in February. It yielded seven bidders: GPPC Inc., Spectrum Electric, Infratech International, Western Pacific Electrical, TCC World, Marianas Wireless Communications, and RadioCom, which won the contract.

Marianas Wireless Communications disagreed with CPA's decision and filed protest on Aug. 18.

The company alleged that CPA did not use the evaluation criteria cited in the request for proposal and did not provide any documentation as evidence that contractor selection was based on the evaluation criteria.

"Hence, the procurement process deviated from the CNMI procurement regulations as there was no determination of the proposals susceptible for award to allow the subsequent process of obtaining the best and final offers. On such basis, this procurement is flawed and any contract award illegal," Marianas Wireless told CPA.

CPA pointed out, however, that RadioCom was ranked first after it submitted the lowest cost proposal of $204,432.

"[Marianas Wireless]'s allegation that CPA did not use the selection criteria to evaluate proposals is just not true," CPA executive director Efrain Camacho stated in a decision he gave Friday to the opposing bidder.

In a document obtained by Saipan Tribune, the following are the bid offer of the seven companies: RadioCom, $204,432; Infra Tech, $249,960; TCC, $297,400; GPPC Inc., $298,900; Western Pacific, $323,405; Spectrum Electric, $499,580; and Marianas Wireless, $921,817 and $733,397.

The protesting firm believes that CPA failed to secure the best and final offer, but Camacho said that Marianas Wireless submitted two proposals for design and installation, with both prices the highest of all the proposals and was actually 297 percent higher than RadioCom's price offer.

Marianas Wireless also claims that CPA failed to ascertain whether the contract amount will result in the design and building of the PA system as specified for the Saipan International Airport.

Marianas Wireless said it is certain of the capability of its supplier and technical subcontractor, ComNet, which has installed majority of airport PAS in the United States, and its alternate system supplier, Bosch, one of the leading supplier of speakers for PAS.

"The award…puts the CNMI at risk," Marianas Wireless said.

Camacho said the scope of work only requires that "all equipment shall be Underwriter's Laboratories listed, commercial grade and FCC approved."

He explained that the approach is used to minimize the project risk for CPA and to reduce delivery schedule by overlapping the design phase and construction phase of the project.

'FAA endorsed the project sans technical review'

Marianas Wireless also alleged that CPA used a flawed concurrence of the FAA, which is not based on the technical merits of the proposal but rather on price and time line schedule.

"It is difficult for us to accept that the FAA concurred with the CPA about the evaluation process and the award," the company said, adding that FAA merely endorsed the project without technical review of the proposals submitted.

Marianas Wireless urged CPA to show evidence that FAA indeed certify that the technical proposal meets the project requirements of designing and installing a public address system.

"Our inquiries with FAA in Hawaii has revealed that while the FAA endorsed the award, they did not determine whether the pricing offered will result in an installation pursuant to the requirements of the request for proposal," said MWC, adding that CPA may not achieve the requirements that it has sought for the project.

Marianas Wireless said CPA erred in the procurement due to erroneous belief that the lowest price gives the best value to the CNMI. They said there is no room for error in such an important project for the airport.

Despite these views, CPA denied the protest last Friday.

Saipan Tribune learned that Marianas Wireless is preparing to elevate its protest to the Office of Public Auditor and is thinking of court intervention if it fails to get favorable result.

FAA approved nearly $1 million for the public address system of the Saipan airport early this year.

Wiseman junks charges against ex-Labor staff

The Superior Court has dismissed the criminal case against a former employee of the Department of Labor who was among eight persons arrested in 2008 for alleged involvement in bribery and conspiracy to forge documents submitted to Labor.

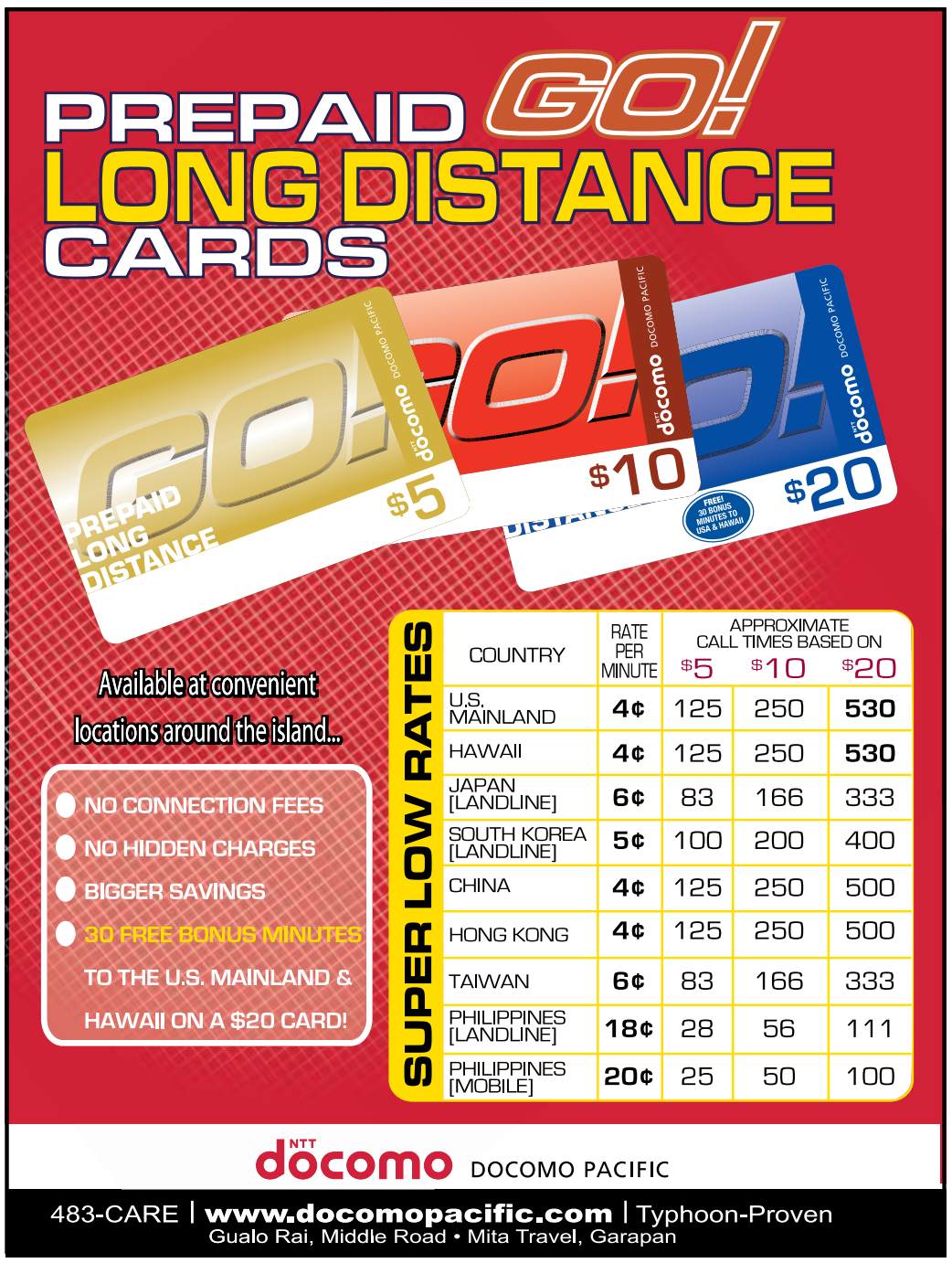
Associate Judge David A. Wiseman dismissed the case charging the 50-year-old Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero with two counts of conspiracy to commit unlawful employment of an alien, after the Office of the Attorney General moved to drop the charges.

Wiseman vacated the jury trial that was set for Oct. 15, 2009.

The judge ordered the release of Deleon Guerrero's passport. He also ordered that any bail posted is exonerated to the person who paid it.

The OAG charged Deleon Guerrero of conspiring with his wife, Teresita Deleon Guerrero, to engage in unlawful employment of two alien workers at ALT International Corp. in October 2006 and March 26, 2007.

In February 2009, Teresita Deleon Guerrero pleaded guilty to one count of document fraud. She was sentenced to 90 days in prison, but was given credit for the time she had already spent in jail. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***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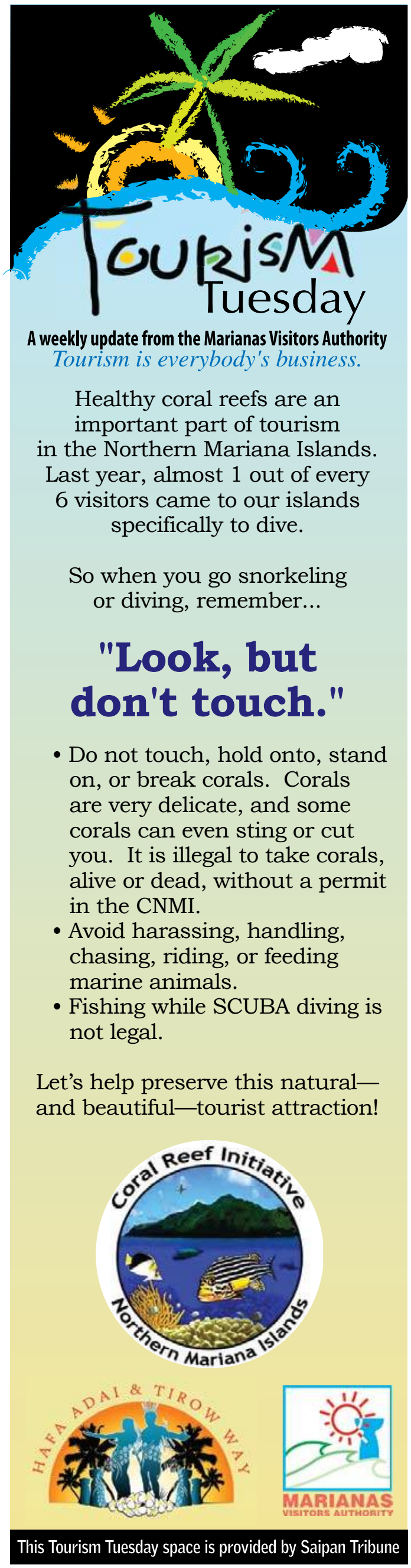
Tourism Tuesday
A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.
Healthy coral reefs are an important part of tourism in the Northern Mariana Islands. Last year, almost 1 out of every 6 visitors came to our islands specifically to dive.
So when you go snorkeling or diving, remember...
"Look, but don't touch."
• Do not touch, hold onto, stand on, or break corals. Corals are very delicate, and some corals can even sting or cut you. It is illegal to take corals, alive or dead, without a permit in the CNMI.
• Avoid harassing, handling, chasing, riding, or feeding marine animals.
• Fishing while SCUBA diving is not legal.
Let's help preserve this natural—and beautiful—tourist attraction!
Coral Reef Initiative
Northern Mariana Islands
HAFA ADAI & TIROW WAY
MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

Eight autonomous agencies owe Fund $23.4M

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Eight government autonomous agencies have racked up $23.4 million in unpaid employer's contributions to the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund.

This was disclosed last week by the Fund's board and noted that the figure includes the prior years' interest penalty of $1.6 million as of Aug. 31, 2009.

Comptroller David Demapan, in his report to the board, said that the Public School System remains on top of the list incurring a cumulative unpaid employer's contribution of $12 million.

Northern Marianas College is next with $5.078 million in unpaid employer's contributions, while the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has a debt of $2.2 million.

The five other delinquent autonomous agencies included the Tinian Municipal Treasury which posted $1.6 million in unpaid employer's contributions; Marianas Visitors Authority, $449,898; Department of Public Lands, $101,341; and Commonwealth Ports Authority which has two outstanding obligations to the Fund of $149,708 and $121,314 respectively.

Saipan Tribune learned that these autonomous departments had $15.3 million of unpaid employer contributions at the beginning of the fiscal year, which had grown to $21.8 million, or a 40-percent increase, last month.

Demapan also disclosed that the unpaid contributions from the CNMI central government is $221.8 million.

He reported that the central government's unpaid contributions at the beginning of the fiscal year was $149.9 million and has grown to $162.1 million, which represents a 10-percent increase.

Records obtained by Saipan Tribune showed that of the $221.8 million, prior years' interest penalty of 25 percent amounts to $41.8 million; FY2009 interest penalty of $2.7 million; and $162.1 million principal amount.

During last week's board meeting, Demapan said that these independent agencies have yet to express a desire to negotiate with the Fund.

PSS, which was appropriated only $35 million in FY2009 for its personnel and operation, earlier said that the "unfunded liability" of the system will stay until the government provides enough funding for its operation and other obligations.

Saipan Tribune learned that big bulk of the agencies' debt to the Fund was a result of the changes in the laws pertaining to the employer's contribution rate from 36 percent to 11 percent.

NMC: Overall completion rate higher than 70 percent

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College said yesterday it has recorded an overall completion rate of more than 70 percent during the Spring 2009 semester, refuting earlier reports of less than 70 percent rate.

In fact, it said that some programs at the college have a much higher completion rate such as the college's School of Education, which was at 90 percent in the Spring semester.

The NMC statement said that 76.65 percent of its students are completing college-level courses.

Saipan Tribune earlier reported that less than 70 percent of NMC students manage to complete courses at the college.

Yesterday, the college belied the report, saying the survey data presented in the report were drawn from forms that instructors completed in the Spring 2009 term for students referred to the Early Intervention Program.

NMC President Dr. Carmen Fernandez said the report was a "complete misrepresentation" of data reported in one section of the college's 2009 Institutional Effectiveness Performance Report, which is now available at the college.

"The Institutional Effectiveness Report specifies many areas where the college exceeds national, higher educational benchmarks," said Fernandez, adding that it was unfortunate that the article pinpointed a particular item, taking it out of context.

"That section, Section 1.1.3, focused only on students referred to the Counseling Department's Early Intervention Program, a program that helps students struggling with certain courses complete those courses," she said.

Fernandez said it is important to note that a student referred to the Early Intervention Program may be in danger of not completing a course, but this does not happen in each and every case.

She said many faculty and staff members are working extremely hard to ensure that students succeed at the college.

According to the report, PROAC analysis of course completion data with the Early Intervention Program and analysis of the program for Spring 2009 indicated that the primary reasons for low completion rates were poor attendance and tardiness reported by faculty.

It stated that results were as follows: 57 percent, poor attendance and tardiness; 22 percent, poor academic performance and poor attendance; and 16 percent, poor academic performance.

Rep. Babauta OK'd as 3rd-party custodian for his son

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court allowed Rep. Oscar M. Babauta yesterday to serve as a third-party custodian for his son who is facing immigration fraud charges.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David A. Wiseman ruled that Rep. Babauta is an acceptable third-party custodian for his 38-year-old son, Jesse Mafnas Babauta.

The younger Babauta pleaded not guilty yesterday to one count of mail fraud, one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud, two counts of fraud and misuse of immigration documents, and one count of conspiracy to commit offenses.

Wiseman directed him to execute an unsecured bond in the amount of $5,000, to be cosigned by his father.

Among the conditions for his temporary release is that he must not leave Saipan without permission from the federal court.

The judge ordered the younger Babauta to refrain from any excessive use of alcoholic beverages and to stay away from direct or indirect contact with any possible witnesses in the case.

Wiseman set the jury trial for Nov. 30, 2009, at 9am.

The court appointed the O'Connor law firm to represent the defendant. Assistant U.S. Attorney Kirk Schuler appeared on behalf of the U.S. government.

The U.S. government indicted the younger Babauta on charges of allegedly defrauding a Chinese national by promising to get his daughter from Fujian Province, China, to Saipan in exchange for money.

Schuler stated in the indictment that persons from the Fujian Province cannot lawfully enter the CNMI without advance written permission from the CNMI Office of the Attorney General.

Schuler said that from Aug. 25, 2008, to Oct. 11, 2008, Babauta devised a scheme to defraud Zhi Yuan Li of his money and property by means of false and fraudulent representations and promises.

Li is a Chinese who is residing on Saipan.

Schuler said the defendant falsely represented to Li that he could arrange for Li's daughter's lawful entry into the CNMI.

The prosecutor said the defendant falsely represented that his father, Rep. Babauta, had the authority and would help Li get his daughter into the CNMI.

Schuler said the defendant provided fake immigration documents dated Sept. 5, 2008, to Li that falsely represented his daughter could lawfully enter the CNMI.

The prosecutor said Babauta received money from Li in exchange for the fake documents.

The prosecutor said Babauta received money from Li in exchange for the fake documents.

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES

Call for Nominations
2009 Governor's Humanities Awards

The Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities is accepting nominations for the 2009 Governor's Humanities Awards. Individuals, groups and organizations may be nominated for significant contributions to the humanities in five categories:

- **Research and Publication in the Humanities**
- **Preservation of CNMI History**
- **Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices**
- **Outstanding Humanities Teacher**
- **Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities**

Nomination forms and guidelines may be obtained at the Humanities Council's office in the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai or downloaded from the Council's website at www.nmihumanities.org.

Nomination forms must be received by the Humanities Council on or before **4:30 p.m. on 9 October 2009**. Awardees will be selected by a majority vote of the Council's board of directors.

Awards will be presented during the 2009 Governor's Humanities Awards ceremonies in October 2009. The time, date and venue of this event will be announced shortly. Please contact Council staff at 235-4785 for additional information about the 2009 Governor's Humanities Awards.

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REVENUE

From Page 1

This also marked a 3-percent or $15.76 million drop in business gross revenue from the previous quarter of January to March.

Other economic indicators, including tourist arrivals, bank deposits and loans, remittances, vehicle sales, hotel occupancy, imports, exports and value of construction, also posted declines in the second quarter, based on the Department of Commerce's latest Economic Indicators Report released yesterday.

Press secretary Charles Reyes, when asked for comment yesterday, said the Fitial administration expect further declines in major economic indicators if federalization is not delayed and visa waiver relief is not provided for the critical China and Russia tourist markets.

"But we are doing everything possible to address these issues with the federal government. Flight capacity during the tourism off-season may also bring the numbers down, based on MVA's [Marianas Visitors Authority] forecast. But we are working with air carriers to sustain more flights," he said.

Tourist arrivals reached only 73,764 in the second quarter, a 21-percent drop from 93,939 last year.

Bank deposits totaled $467.74 million in the second quarter, down from $478.85 million last year during the same period.

Bank loans also dropped to $134.26 million, from $149.14 million last year.

Even remittances, mostly by nonresident workers, plunged by 17 percent or from $19.7 million in the second quarter of 2009 to only $16.2 million this year.

New vehicle sales totaled 203 in April to June, from 226 last year during the same months.

The average hotel occupancy rate was 50 percent in the second quarter this year compared to 57 percent last year.

Imports, mostly of petroleum, oil, lubricants, food items, beverages, construction materials and cement, dropped from 99.47 tons last year to 89.21 tons this year during the second quarter.

With the death of the Saipan garment industry, the CNMI did not post any export during the year's second quarter compared to $25.24 million last year.

The value of construction projects also went down to only $10.14 million from $12.26 million.

Commerce Secretary Michael J. Ada said the second quarter economic indicators report depicts the social and economic conditions of the CNMI.

All these give credence to an independent economic forecast that the CNMI economy will be bleaker this year than last year, and the possibilities of reinventing the now desperate economy are increasingly slim.

FITIAL

From Page 1

governor said.

A CUC board of directors has yet to be reinstated.

A warning of management crisis is one of the key points in Fitial's latest 30-day extension of the declaration of a state of emergency for CUC.

Fitial signed the extended emergency declaration on Sunday.

The declaration allows the continued hiring of non-U.S. citizen professionals at CUC, again citing the Legislature's failure to act on the agency's critical personnel needs to stabilize its operations, especially after the contract with Aggreko expired on Sept. 12 for the rental of temporary generators.

"A shortage of manpower forced by legislation limiting skilled foreign workers has continued to place CUC operations at risk," said Fitial.

The governor said skilled workers are required to effectively maintain and rehabilitate CUC's power plants.

CUC still needs five skilled trade technicians for power plant operations and maintenance, after being able to hire 21 new workers since the start of the year. CUC also lost four U.S. citizen technical workers who resigned this year.

The governor first declared a state of emergency for CUC in August 2008 and has since been extending the emergency declaration every month.

'Economic chaos'

Fitial said P.L. 16-17, as amended, constricts the scope of authority for the CUC executive director and complicates matters with the "complementary daily management by a host of volunteers," thereby paralyzing the corporation.

A careful reading of the statute shows that the functions of the CUC executive director would be restricted to providing reports to a board of volunteers who will run CUC on a daily basis, he said.

This includes such decision-making as purchasing materials and supplies, signing paychecks and other checks, hiring staff, assigning work crews, connecting customers, deciding on making repairs, collecting debts, complying with federal and Public Utilities Commission regulations, and ensuring that on a daily basis, the power and water flow, and the sewage is treated.

"Permitting CUC to be managed this way would plunge the CNMI into economic chaos and a public health crisis, as corporate activity and the hospital's operations ground to a halt —with or without a board in place," said Fitial.

He added that no private or public utility in the U.S. runs this way—"with a group of volunteers managing a $70-million corporation's day-to-day operations."

PUC has plenary power over CUC rates, charges, fees, operations and capital investments.

In addition, the CUC enabling legislation, as amended, also requires a complex mix of technical, geographic and other qualifications for CUC board membership.

"There is no board because it has been impossible to meet these criteria. Without the board, or its equivalent, CUC cannot take a critical step toward solvency and the ability to borrow to finance its work," said Fitial.

New costs

The U.S. Coast Guard, which recently inspected CUC power plants, imposed another cost that was unanticipated even with federal court stipulated order #2.

Stipulated Order #2 relates to the used oil of engines from four CUC facilities —Power Plants 1, 3, 4, and Rota—and all CUC transformers.

Fitial said the U.S. Coast Guard now requires additional and more stringent measures to contain or eliminate the possibility of any oil reaching the ocean from Power Plants 1, 2, and the power plant on Rota. This, he said, requires trained staff.

CUC bears a substantial obligation to deliver highly technical work on time to the satisfaction of the U.S. District Court and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to two consent or "stipulated" orders signed in March this year.

ENGINES

From Page 1

MW, translating to a power reserve of 11 MW.

Since the government dismantled the Aggreko generators early this month, Saipan has been relying on power being produced at the three power plants. Aggreko's $6 million contract expired on Sept. 12, 2009.

Power Plant 1

Of the eight engines at Power Plant 1, two are not functioning right now: engines 5 and 8.

Malae said Engine 5 is currently undergoing major overhaul and work is expected to be completed by Thanksgiving, Nov. 26.

Engine 8 is awaiting mobilization of the contractor in November to replace the foundation, including the concrete and bolts. The contractor will also replace the damaged foundation bolts on Engine 1.

Barring any unforeseen problems, Malae said, the contract should be completed before January 2010.

He also disclosed that the continuing problem with Engine 8 was a result of the "unsuccessful" work of a previous contractor that failed to identify the root cause of the problem. He said this is being corrected at present.

"A previous contractor was unsuccessful but we believe the root cause of the problem has been identified and will be corrected," Malae told *Saipan Tribune*.

Power Plant 1 produces the largest amount of power for the island at 37.0 megawatts.

Power Plant 2

Of the four engines at Power Plant 2, one is being overhauled and won't ready until November, Malae said.

He described Power Plant 2 as a "peaking plant," which means CUC resort to it when there is insufficient power being generated at Power Plant 1.

"Power Plant 2 is not as efficient as Power Plant 1," Malae said, adding that the power plant is currently producing 6.0 MW. It is designed to produce 10 MW.

Power Plant 4

Power Plant 4, although owned by CUC, is being operated by Pacific Marine Industrial Corp., PMIC. The firm was contracted to supply CUC a minimum amount of kilowatt-hour per month.

Saipan Tribune learned that the power plant has nine engines but two are undergoing repairs to their alternators.

Total power available from Power Plant 4 is 10.2 megawatts. It is designed to produce 16.5 MW

'Power Plant 1 not meeting the design MW'

Malae confirmed that diesel engines in Power Plant 1 are not producing the megawatts they are designed to meet.

Engine 1, which is designed for 7.1 MW, is producing just 5.0 MW.

Engines 2 and 3 also fail to meet their designed 7.1 MW as both are producing just 5.0 MW each.

Engine 6, designed to generate 12.6 MW, also falls short with only 8 MW, while engines 7 and 8, both designed for 12.6 MW, are only capable of producing 10 and 4 megawatts, respectively.

Reserve power

Total power available from the three power plants is 53.2 megawatts.

Malae said that peak load for the year was recorded on Sept. 8 at 42 MW. This means there is a reserve of 11 MW.

"We are not out of the woods yet as far as power generation is concerned. Ideally, we should have a reserve equal to at least the two largest units or 10 + 8 = 18 megawatts," Malae told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said the speedy overhaul of Engine 5 and the foundation work for Engine 8 are critically important to providing more than breathing space of another 12 MW.

As for CUC's power distribution system, the CUC official described it as "vulnerable."

"The power sub-transmission and distribution system is so vulnerable—too many outages during the glancing blow by Typhoon Choi-Wan 15W—that we must continue with the emergency order," he said.

'Hope for CUC'

Malae is optimistic, however, that all the changes and work being done at CUC will enable the agency to deliver the services needed by people.

"It is the same hope for all the services of CUC. That they be operated in an efficient and effective manner delivering excellent service. That CUC should not have to wait for an emergency order in order to 'make things happen.' In fact, it is our hope to operate the system so well that we would never have to resort to an emergency order, or be subjected to a stipulated order for preliminary injunctive relief by the EPA, or to the U.S. Coast Guard and others telling us what to do. We would just do the right thing of our own volition," Malae said.

However, because it is typhoon season, there remains a lot of vulnerabilities to the power system, either at the plant or outside in the transmission and distribution system, he said.

"For power generation we have on order a particular device that would automatically shed a load—i.e., shut the power off to a feeder should one of the larger engines go down suddenly. The entire [transmission and distribution] system is vulnerable: vegetation has to be cleared continuously and not when a storm is imminent; easements need to be enforced and trees must not be planted underneath the high-tension lines. And if they are growing there, they must be removed," he said, adding that the utility and bucket trucks are dilapidated and technical staff is in short supply.

When asked for the key factor that would make the utility agency work properly and avoid a crisis, Malae said the most significant one is having in place competent, energetic managers with technical skills and of good character.

He believes that investing in a scholarship or apprenticeship program at CUC in cooperation with schools and colleges is important for the future of the utility corporation.

CALVO

From Page 1

the second degree and sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja also found Calvo guilty of sexual abuse of a minor in the third degree and disturbing the peace. Naraja decided on the misdemeanor charges.

As soon as a court staff read the guilty verdict on the first charge, some family members clapped their hands and burst into tears. The victim cried as her sister and mother hugged her tightly.

Naraja reminded family members to keep silent and asked the court staff to continue reading the verdict.

Calvo appeared calm as he stood beside his lawyer, G. Anthony Long.

Naraja ordered the Probation Office to prepare a pre-sentence report. He set the sentencing for Nov. 30, 2009, at 1:30pm.

Naraja ordered the continuation of the bail hearing for today, Tuesday, at 2pm. The judge remanded Calvo to the custody of the Department of Corrections.

Assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher said they are pleased with the outcome because there was overwhelming evidence of Calvo's guilt.

When asked about the maximum sentence that Calvo could get, Gallagher he needs to review the law.

"We are looking into the possibility of consecutive sentencing but I can't really comment on that; I need to do more research," the prosecutor said.

Francisco Ada, who served as spokesman of the victim's family, said they just want justice to be served and want the victim's voice to be heard.

"The jury heard them and they came back with the verdict. And justice is served," Ada said.

Right now, Long said, the defense will focus on ensuring that Calvo will get a reasonable sentence, given the nature of the charges.

Long said it is premature to discuss appeal at this point because they have to focus on the sentencing aspect of the case.

The victim testified how Calvo sexually molested her in her room on June 11, 2008. The girl's mother also testified for the government.

Calvo took the witness stand to deny the victim's charges. Two daughters of Calvo also testified against him.

In June 2008, Calvo announced he would run for the U.S. Congress as an independent candidate. A few days later, police arrested him for the sexual abuse case.

This was not the first time Calvo faced accusations of sex abuse. In 2000, the Office of the Attorney General filed two criminal cases against him for allegedly sexually abusing two female minors in 1997 and 1998. The cases dragged on for years in the local courts before being eventually dismissed in November 2005.

Calvo is the owner of the Calvo's Nursery and Landscaping in Susupe.

High court: CUC power rate hike unconstitutional

The CNMI Supreme Court reversed yesterday a Superior Court decision in the case of Rep. Stanley T. Torres and Jack A. Angello, saying the governor's wholesale restructuring of the legislation that created and governed the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. was unconstitutional.

In a decision issued yesterday, the Supreme Court said that "a governor does not have the authority to take on functions which are delegated to the legislature by the Constitution."

Torres and Angello were customers of CUC and had filed a petition in August 2006 with CUC, arguing that their utility rates had been illegally raised.

CUC had raised the rates the previous month under the authority of an executive order issued by Gov. Benigno Fitial, which abolished the former rate caps set by the Legislature and reduced CUC's board of directors to an advisory role with no actual authority to govern the agency.

In October 2006, CUC denied Torres' and Angello's request to reduce their bills to conform with the rate schedules that were in effect prior to the increase. The two paid their bill under protest, but appealed to the Superior Court for relief from the rate increase.

In April 2007, the Superior Court upheld the ultimate decision of CUC's administrative hearing officer and since it had found that Fitial had not overstepped his boundaries in making the changes, it stated that the increased rates were never actually illegal.

Upon review, the Supreme Court reversed that decision. Citing *Sonoda v. Cabrera*, 1997 MP 5, the Supreme Court held that "a governor does not have the authority to take on functions which are delegated to the legislature by the Constitution. It is true that Article III, Section 15 allows a governor to reorganize the Executive Branch in ways that 'affect existing law,' but the Constitution does not sanction a governor's complete abolition and overhaul of existing statutes that are the foundation of Executive Branch entities."

Since Article II of the Constitution reserves that power solely for the Legislature, the executive order and resulting rate increases were unconstitutional, the high court said. Accordingly, the Supreme Court reversed the decision of the Superior Court, and remanded the case to CUC for recalculation of Torres' and Angello's bills.

The full text of the high court's decision will be available on the CNMI Judiciary web page http://www.justice.gov.mp/. ***(PR)***

Rota on Tropical Storm Condition 3

As of 4pm yesterday, Tropical Depression 18W was located about 690 miles east-southeast of Rota, with maximum sustained winds of 35 miles per hour. It was expected to slowly intensify over the next 24 hours and could become a tropical storm during the next 24 hours.

Because of the anticipated threat from this weather disturbance, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has maintained Tropical Storm Condition III for the island of Rota as of 5:30pm yesterday.

Based the latest information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled by the CNMI Emergency Management Office, Tropical Depression 18W was moving to the west-southwest at around 7 miles per hour and was expected to make a gradual turn toward the west then west-northwest during the next 12 to 24 hours.

The public is urged to continue to monitor the official bulletins, which will be available through local media sources and NOAA Weather radio broadcast on 162.5 megahertz, the emergency information hotline at telephone number 322-0220 or CNMI 211.

In related news, the Joint Region Marianas in Guam established yesterday a Condition of Readiness 3 due to destructive winds of 50 knots or more that were expected within 48 hours.

Tropical storm force winds were expected to begin affecting Guam the evening of Tuesday, Sept. 29 and the closest approach of Tropical Depression 18W was predicted to be Wednesday, Sept. 30 at 5am.

Navy personnel are currently securing facilities and housing residents are instructed to start heavy weather preparedness efforts.

The U.S. Naval Hospital Guam is encouraging all expectant mothers beyond their 38th week of pregnancy to contact the hospital to make arrangements.

For up-to-date information, Navy personnel and families are encouraged to call 339-INFO. ***(EMO)***

$4.8M seawall repairs underway

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A $4.8 million seawall replacement at Smiling Cove Marina is underway, and is expected to be completed in February 2010.

Once completed, the project will not only provide a stable seawall but also more parking spaces at the marina and a safe walkway because of the construction of stainless railings.

The project is within the vicinity of the American Memorial Park, which is managed by the U.S. National Park Service.

GPPC Inc., the contractor for the project, bagged on Jan. 21 a contract worth $4,484,800 from the U.S. National Park Service.

Engineer Dennis Tupaz of GPPC Inc. said yesterday the 300-day construction began in May and will be completed in February next year.

The project involves the construction of 800 ft. of seawall, stainless railing, road improvement, and landscaping, said Tupaz.

Paquito Jimenez, foreman at GPPC Inc., said work at the construction site is from Monday to Saturday.

"This will be a better and safer place for tourists and others when it's done," Jimenez told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at the project site yesterday.

CDA loan of an ex-Gardenia owner now reaching $1.2M

The Commonwealth Development Authority has sued one of the former owners of the closed Pacific Gardenia Hotel for allegedly failing to pay her 1989 loan that is now reaching $1.2 million, including interest and other charges.

CDA asked the Superior Court to hold Jeannette D. Sablan liable to pay a total of $1,234,177.37 as of Aug. 27, 2009. The total comprises the principal sum of $677,628.22, accrued interest of $479,457.83, penalty charges of $912, and miscellaneous charges of $5,555.25.

Saipan Tribune tried yesterday to obtain comments from Sablan, but she did not respond to the e-mail.

CDA, through counsel F. Matthew Smith, asked the court to order the sale of Sablan's mortgaged interests in a real property consisting of 7,153 square meters of land located in Fina Sisu.

It asked the court to pay CDA the proceeds of the sale.

The agency also asked the court to terminate the lease agreement executed by Sablan and Kyu Bong Moon, and another lease agreement entered by Sablan and Kwi Dong Woo over the mortgaged property.

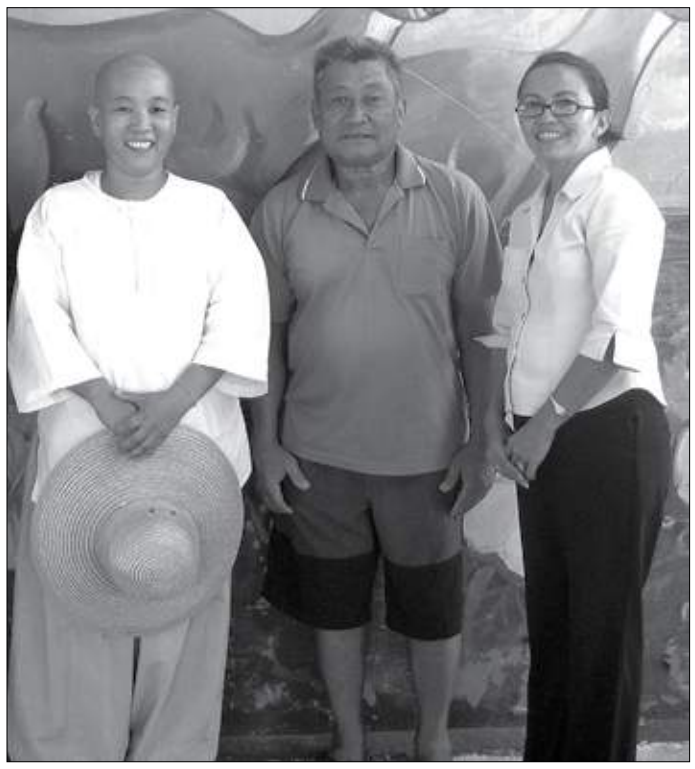
Smith said Moon and Dong are residents of Saipan who may have a claim or interest in the mortgaged property subordinate in right to that of CDA.

Smith stated in the complaint that on Oct. 27, 1989, CDA extended a direct loan to Sablan in the amount of $650,000.

At the request of Sablan, the loan was revised in 1991, 1995, 1998, and in 2000, the lawyer said.

He said Sablan is in default in the payments of indebtedness owed to CDA.

"Despite repeated demands, Sablan continues to fail to make the promised payments," Smith said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***



BUDDHIST DONATION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

On Thursday, Sept. 10, 2009, the NMI Buddhist Temple in Marpi donated a new sound system complete with wireless microphones, amplifier, and 300 meters of speaker wire to Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School (GTC) in San Roque Village. The sound system will be used in the GTC cafeteria for school and community functions. GTC expressed gratitude to Gil Jin Lee of the NMI Buddhist Temple for the generous donation and to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Castro of San Roque for facilitating the donation of the items to the school. From left, Gil Jin Lee, of the NMI Buddhist Temple, Thomas Castro, and GTC principal Charlotte Camacho.

Long-term foreign workers' inclusion in Kilili bill pushed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The United Workers Movement NMI said yesterday they will ask Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan to include long-term foreign workers in the groups of individuals who will be allowed to stay in the CNMI until 2014.

Sablan filed H.R. 3658 last week to include Chinese and Russian tourists in the joint visa waiver program for 180 days beyond the Nov. 28 start-up date for federal border control in the CNMI.

H.R. 3658 also grants immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and persons who are CNMI permanent residents the right to live in the CNMI for a full five years from Nov. 28, 2009.

The "immediate relatives of U.S. citizens" in Sablan's bill include persons married to U.S. citizens and parents of children who are U.S. citizens because they were born here.

CNMI permanent residents are persons who have lived in the CNMI since at least 1981.

Yesterday, United Workers Movement NMI president Rabby Syed said they will appeal to Sablan to include foreign workers who have been legally in the CNMI for at least five years.

Sablan

"We thank Congressman Sablan for introducing the bill and giving humanitarian consideration to IRs and CNMI permanent residents. But we also would like to ask him to include guest workers who have been here for a long time but don't have U.S. citizen children," Syed told *Saipan Tribune*.

Under Sablan's bill, both groups could work and come and go from the CNMI without the need for any further permission or visa from the United States.

Syed said the workers group also hails Sablan for including in his bill a provision that allows lower application fees for U.S. citizens with immediate relatives. The bill also waives minimum income requirements for these families.

The United Workers Movement NMI, which is composed of workers from the Philippines, China, Bangladesh, Korea and other countries, also supports the inclusion of Russian and Chinese tourists in the Guam-CNMI visa waiver program.

"If we have more tourists, then it will be better for the economy and for the workers," Syed added.

Sablan also introduced last week a bill delaying by one year or until Dec. 1, 2010, the implementation of P.L. 110-229 in the CNMI.

Federalization is set to start on Nov. 28.

House panel welcomes hiring of doctors from RP, others

House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare chairman Rep. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) said yesterday he would have declared a state of emergency at the Department of Public Health as early as July if only he has the power to do so.

"I would have declared a state of emergency two months ago when the committee did its survey on the hospital's services. But I support the governor for prioritizing health," Torres said.

On Sunday, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial told *Saipan Tribune* that he will put DPH under a state of emergency to be able to hire doctors from the Philippines and other countries to address the shortage of physicians at the Commonwealth Health Center.

The governor has yet to sign such a declaration.

The CNMI can only hire from the U.S. and Canada due to policies of the CNMI Medical Profession Licensing Board, Medicare and Medicaid.

"I've said this before. We are sending patients to the Philippines but we don't allow doctors from the Philippines to come here. It doesn't add up. But a major concern would be Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement. I hope the administration will be able to address this," Torres said.

Among the specialists to be hired from countries outside the U.S. and Canada are cardiologists and nephrologists, Fitial said.

Currently, DPH pays a U.S.-based headhunters firm $25,000 for every doctor hired to work at DPH.

Torres said his committee has tentatively set an oversight hearing on DPH on Oct. 14.

"The committee is formulating the questions to be asked. We will subpoena documents from DPH," said Torres, adding that DPH officials will be required to show up at the oversight hearing.

Last Tuesday, DPH officials snubbed the House committee's public hearing to receive testimony on health issues. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

APAFS presents the 9th Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference to be held on October 8 and 9 at the Renaissance Makati City Hotel, Manila, Philippines!
DON'T MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO NETWORK WITH ASIA'S TOP FINANCIAL GURUS UNDER ONE ROOF!
The 9th Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference MANILA, PHILIPPINES
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Mark Mobius, Ph.D.
Keynote Speaker
Mark Mobius, Ph.D., a renowned expert on emerging markets, is this year's Keynote Speaker for the 9th Pacific Region Investment Conference. Dr. Mobius is currently the Executive Chairman of Templeton Asset Management, LLC. In his current role, he directs the Templeton research team based in 15 emerging markets offices across the globe and manages several emerging markets portfolios for both retail and institutional investors. In 2006, Asiamoney magazine listed Dr. Mobius as one of the "Top 100 Most Powerful and Influential People," stating that he "boasts one of the highest profiles of any investor in the region and is regarded by many in the financial industry as one of the most successful emerging markets investors over the last 20 years. Dr. Mobius has written several books, including "Trading with China," "The Investor's Guide to Emerging Markets," "Mobius on Emerging Markets," "Equities—An Introduction to the Core Concepts," and "Mutual Funds—An Introduction to the Core Concepts." The World Bank and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development appointed Dr. Mobius joint chairman of the Global Corporate Governance Forum Investor Responsibility Taskforce. He earned Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from Boston University, and a Ph.D. in economics and political science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
CONFERENCE SPEAKERS
Daniel Roland, CIMA — Executive Director, APAFS
David J. John — President, ASC Trust Corporation
Frank Crawford, — President, Crawford & Associates, P.C.
Gerard A. Cruz — Chairman, Board of Governors, APAFS
Jack Lin — Co-Chief Executive Officer, Janus Capital International
James D. Staub — Sr. Vice President, Atalanta Sosnoff Capital, LLC
John J. Rice — Partner, Coughlin Stoia Geller Rudman & Robins
Louis Boulanger — Louis Boulanger Now Limited
Mark J. Heath, CFA, CPA — Sr. Vice President, Metropolitan West Capital Management, LLC
Sen. Manuel Villar — Senator of the Philippines
Bill Kalra — Vice President & Portfolio Manager, Payden & Rygel
Patton Roark, CFA — Managing Director & Portfolio Manager, Richmond Capital Management
Stephen Weiss — Sr. Vice President, Income Research & Management
Stephen Grundlingh — Regional Head (South East Asia) and Country Head, Templeton Asset Management Ltd. (Singapore)
SESSION OVERVIEW
• Emerging Markets Investing & Outlook
• Measuring a Government's Financial Health and Success
• Real Estate Investments Overview
• Protection Against the Risk of a Systematic Financial Meltdown
• Outlook for Equity Markets
• Outlook for the Global Fixed Income Markets
REGISTRATION FEES
• Registration Fee for Outside Manila Delegates: USD150/head
• Registration Fee for 2 or more persons registering under one institution (for Outside Manila Delegates): USD150 for the organization's first registrant and USD100/head for succeeding registrant's of the same organization
Email apafs.pric@brandspeakasia.com or call (+632) 501.50.90 or (+632) 750.65.10 and look for the Leigh Formilleza for inquiries.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, #1242 Pohnpei Ct.
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670)664-4809 Fax No: (670)664-4814
Email: cnmihcplb@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on Wednesday, September 30, 2009 at 3:00pm on Saipan. The meeting will be held at Conference Room #3 at the Dr. Jose T. Villagomez Center for Public Health and Dialysis Center, Lower Navy Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes
V. Chairperson's Report
VI. Director's Report
VII. Investigator's Report
VIII. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
  A. Governor's Office
  B. Legislature
IX. Old Business:
  A. HCPLB Draft Regulations
X. New Business:
  A. Tinian Health Center
XI. Applications for Board's Review
  A. New/Renewal Applications
  B. Pending Applications
XII. Miscellaneous Business:
XIII. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with counsel with pending or anticipated legal matters.
  A. Dr. Gary Ramsey
XIV. Announcements
XV. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Dr. Janet McCullough
Chairperson

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Beautify CNMI meeting set

The monthly Beautify CNMI meeting will be this Thursday, Oct. 1, 2009, at the Division of Environmental Quality at 3:30pm. For questions, contact Joe Kaipat at DEQ at 664 8500. ***(PR)***

Notice to all candidates for political office

The Office of the Public Auditor will be conducting presentations on campaign finance and reporting on Saipan on Oct. 6, 2009, 5:30pm to 7:30pm, Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe.

Given the statutory restrictions relating to campaign spending and reporting, all candidates and their treasurers are strongly urged to attend. For more information, call OPA at 322-6481/2. ***(OPA)***

Hofschneider-Palacios on Chamorro radio talk show

Between 10am and 11am this Saturday, Oct. 3, 2009, on Magic 100.3, the Chamorro radio talk show program called "Marianas Agupa," hosted by Glenn H. Manglona, will feature the gubernatorial tandem of Rep. Heinz Hofschneider and Speaker Arnold Palacios. Discussions will be on the HA platform—social, economic, political and cultural issues facing the Commonwealth today.

Between 9:15am and 9:45am, Saipan mayoral candidate Candido Taman will be a guest on the show. The phone line at the radio station will be open for questions during the show. Tune in for more on Magic 100.3 FM this Saturday between 9am and 11am. Live Internet broadcast on www.magic100radio.com will also be available. ***(PR)***

John Gonzales Live schedule

■ Sept. 30 LIVE; replays 10/4 and 10/5 @ 7-8 pm

Covenant Party Precinct III candidates vision and platform: Felicidad 'Daling' Ogumoro, Jesus Elameto, David R. Maratita, Henry K. Rabauliman, and Edmund S. Villagomez.

■ Sept. 30 LIVE 8-9 pm

CNMI Descent for Self-Government & Indigenous Rights as "Friends of the Court" will discuss salient provisions of CNMI Covenant and relationship with the U.S. as related to the federalization Lawsuit. Guests include Oscar C. Rasa, former Speaker and Covenant negotiator; and John S. DelRosario Jr.

The shows air on KSPN Channel 2. LIVE Text: 285-META; LIVE Call: 287-4230; e-mail johngonzales@pticom.com.

Silent protest vs Afghanistan War

A group of concerned citizens are holding a silent protest against the Afghanistan War at the American Memorial Park, by the circle flags, every Friday, from 5pm to 5:30pm. The group began their protest on Sept. 25, 2009.

In a statement, the group said that since 2001, the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan has cost the lives of 834 American soldiers plus 569 coalition soldiers— 403 dead young soldiers. The total civilian dead is really unknown but reliable estimates say between 1,231 to 3,385 children, women, and men have died in this invasion. Financial costs from 2001 to September 2009 are $228.2 billion.

"In the first nine months of 2009, the war cost $61.3 billion with three more months to go this year, while millions of Americans have no health care insurance," the group said. "Support our soldiers, bring them home now. Stop the afghan war!"

The silent protest occurs every Friday, from Sept. 25, 2009, until Sept. 25, 2010. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Retirement Association meeting today

The first annual general membership meeting of the Commonwealth Retirement Association will be held today, Sept. 29, 6pm in the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. The association is made up of all the working and retired members of the original Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Program, now referred to as the Defined Benefit Plan. Election of the board will also take place. All gubernatorial candidates are confirmed to present to speak and answer questions. For additional information, call 24-6858 or 322-4785. ***(PR)***

Beginners' conversational Korean classes at NMC

The Korean Cultural Center—Korean Language School has developed KSL (Korean as Second Language) and KTL (Korean as Third Language) programs. And the Center provides Beginners' classes at Northern Marianas College as a CDI program. Anyone interested in learning the Korean language can join the October classes. It's almost free. If you are too busy to come during working hours, just call for the free visit-registration service. The proposed class time is on Tuesday or Friday, but it can be changed according to the situation of the participants and the details will be announced later. For more information, contact Daniel Huh at 285-2221, e-mail: korean2221@gmail.com.

Census 2010 JVAs extended

In order to allow potential applicants more time to submit applications for the 16 census 2010 positions opening up on October 1, 2009, the Department of Commerce has requested that the Office of Personnel Management extend the deadline for submissions, from the original date of Sept. 5, to the new deadline of Sept. 11, 2009. All potential applicants are encouraged to submit their applications to OPM and direct all pertinent questions regarding the positions to that office. ***(PR)***

Marriage Encounter Weekend set

Help turn a good marriage into a great marriage through a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend! The CNMI's next Marriage Encounter Weekend will be on Oct. 16 – 18, 2009, at the Saipan Grand Hotel. Cost is $50 per couple. For further information or a registration form, contact any of the following:

■ John & Carol Hosono (Tel: 286-4997; e-mail: johnhosono@gmail.com)

■ Jun & Linda Pangelinan (Tel: 483-4111; e-mail: linpangelinan@gmail.com)

■ John & Vicky Mafnas (Tel: 285-8454; e-mail: vbmafnas@yahoo.com)

■ Fr. Ike Ayuyu (Tel: 234-8888; e-mail: ikeayuyu@gmail.com)

■ Vince & Hilma Castro (Tel: 287-8089; e-mail: hilmacastrome@gmail.com)

PERFORMANCE REPORT HAIDEE EUGENIO

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez speaks to the crowd while Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos and newly elected president of the Associated Students of NMC Miles Rodriguez look on during Friday's annual performance report.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, September 30, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. in the CPA Conference Room, Second Floor, Captain George F. Fleming Building at the Port of Saipan, Saipan.

The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda

II. SPECIAL AGENDA ITEMS
1. Worldwide Salvage
2. Approval of Fiscal Year 2010 Budget
3. WestPac
4. Marianas Shipyard
5. DFS Saipan

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

V. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director
September 28, 2009

The Palms on PauPau Beach, Saipan Micronesia

Specials at Palms Resort Saipan

Man Amko' Lunch Buffet Special
Every Thursday
Man Amko's can enjoy an array of Japanese Cuisine plus avail of a **50% discount**
$22.00 Adult $15.00 Child (55 yrs. old & above - ID required)
Minami Restaurant 11:00 am ~ 2:00 pm

Hero's Lunch Buffet Special
Every Tuesday
All soldiers can enjoy an array of Japanese Cuisine plus avail of a **50% discount**
$22.00 Adult $15.00 Child (Military ID required)
Minami Restaurant 11:00 am ~ 2:00 pm

Miller Draft Fusion Mexican Dinner Buffet
Every Wednesday
Enjoy a sumptuous Fusion Mexican Cuisine with delicious selection with all you can drink Miller Draft and Tequila.
$25.00 per person $12.50 child
PauPau Bar & Terrace 6:00 pm ~ 9:00 pm

Ladies Night at PauPau Bar
Every Thursday, Friday & Saturday
Ladies can enjoy a full pitcher of cocktail, finger food, 50% off for all the ladies (menu price) and ejoy live entertainment by Maggie Naputi Band
PauPau Bar & Terrace 7:00 pm ~ 11:00 pm

Bud Light Seafood Night Buffet
Every Friday
Enjoy a variety of Seafood delicacy with all you can drink Bud Family Beer.
$33.00 Adult $16.50 Child
Minami Restaurant 6:00 pm ~ 9:00 pm

Bud Light Steak Night Buffet
Every Saturday
All you can eat Steak grilled to perfection and with free flowing Bud Family Beer.
$33.00 Adult $16.50 Child
Minami Restaurant 6:00 pm ~ 9:00 pm

Sunday Brunch at Minami
Treat the whole family to a variety of interntaional cuisine and enjoy bottomless sodas and sparkling wine.
$33.00 Adult $16.50 Child
Minami Restaurant 11:00 am ~ 2:00 pm

All-U-Can Eat Steak & Seafood
Teppanyaki Style
A variety of teppanyaki delicacy cooked to perfection.
$44.00 Adult $22.00 Child
Kaenju Restaurant 6:00 pm ~ 9:00 pm

Stay the Ultimate Dream Night
Room Promotion
For just $88.00/night with Breakfast or Sunday Brunch for 2 inclusive of F&B Discount
Access to Pool / Fitness Center
Local Promotion Other conditions apply.

20% Local Discount
San Roque Club Welcome

Cruise the Night Away
Special Promotion
For just $69.00 per person, the 2 of you can enjoy a One Night Stay, Sunset Dinner Cruise and Breakfast
(based on a share twin)
Local Promotion Other conditions apply.

For more information or reservation, please call 322-3311.

Humanities Council elects new officers

CONTACT INFO

Web site: www.nmihumanities.org
Tel: 235-4785

The NMI Council for the Humanities elected Charles P. Reyes Jr. as its new board chair during a special meeting held on Sept. 23.

Reyes

Tenorio

Reyes, who joined the board in May 2008, is Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's press secretary. He succeeds the council's former chair, Dr. Debra T. Cabrera, who resigned from the board after relocating to Guam earlier this year.

Reyes earned a degree in Speech from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Prior to becoming press secretary, Reyes served as the spokesman and public information officer for the Speaker and the leadership of the 14th House of Representatives

The board also elected Lillian A. Tenorio to serve as vice chair.

Tenorio joined the board in April 2008 and is an attorney in private practice on Saipan. She received a juris doctor from the University of New Mexico School of Law where she was recognized for outstanding achievement in the study of constitutional law.

William R. Barrineau continues to serve as the board's secretary/treasurer.

The council is a private, nonprofit corporation with 501 (C) (3) tax status that was established in 1991. It provides a variety of educational initiatives and humanities programs to lifelong learners in the community. ***(PR)***

NMI Humanities Council set for Cha Cha event

To kick off the NMI Humanities Month celebrations in October, the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities is set for its first cha cha dance fundraiser to be held this October 2nd.

"Blame it on the Cha Cha Cha" will feature live music from Parker, Maggie Naputi and Burning Bush at the Saipan World Resort Jungle Stage from 5:30pm to 10:30pm. "Blame it on the Cha Cha Cha" will feature a Cha Cha contest, awesome raffle prizes, live performances all night long and a chance to help a great community organization.

Couples for the Cha Cha contest will be judged on presentation and musical interpretation, timing/rhythm and technique. Besides earning the title of Cha Cha champions, $250 will be awarded to the first place winners, $150 to the second place winners and $100 for the third place winners.

Marianas Pacific Distributors is also teaming up Budweiser with its other house brands, Leaping Horse and Burnett Vodka, to offer special happy-hour prices all night. Beer is $2, well drinks are only $3.50 and a glass of wine is $4.

"The event is geared for all those who love to put on their dancing shoes and have fun while supporting a nonprofit organization. We ask everyone's support and thank all of our sponsors for making this event possible," said NMIHC program development chair Janet King.

Tickets are $10 per person with a complimentary drink and will be available at the NMIHC office at the Spring's Plaza along Middle Road. Call 235-4785 for more information.

Special thanks to Bridge Capital, LCC, GRESCO, Representative Edward T. Salas, Saipan World Resort, Budweiser, Burnett Vodka and Leaping Horse. ***(PR)***

Winners named in annual 401(k) Day raffle

ASC Trust Corp. congratulates the winners for the annual 401(k) Day held Sept. 11, 2009.

In an effort to promote 401(k) Day, each year ASC Trust Corp. conducts a survey through their website. On Aug. 24, 2009, all Guam and Saipan employees, of plans administered by ASC, had the opportunity to win an Apple iPod Touch just by filling out an online survey on its website at www.ascpac.com. The deadline to submit the survey was on Sept. 8, 2009. The raffle drawing of the winner was done at the ASC Guam office the morning of Sept. 11, 2009.

Monalynn Camacho of the Northern Marianas College was the Saipan participant Apple iPod Touch winner!

The company with the highest percentage of employees that took the survey won a "401(k) Day Office Party," and the winner is Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc., which was the Saipan company winner. They won a 401(k) Day Office Party that was delivered to them by ASC's Saipan personnel on Sept. 11, 2009.

The other winners of ASC's 401(k) Day raffle drawings who received consolation prizes included Corazon D. Mercado of Pacific Marine & Industrial Corp., Marilyn Sokau Aldan of the CNMI Superior Court, Liza Taylor of Microl Corp., Jemima F. Nogis of CNMI Fish & Wildlife and Juan Evangelista of L&T Group of Companies.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc. officials and employees are presented with a cake as part of the 401(k) Day Office Party, which they officially won during the annual 401(k) Day held Sept. 11, 2009.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tania Fleming Mesa, ASC Trust Corp.'s Saipan office manager, left, presents Monalynn Camacho of the Northern Marianas College with the Apple iPod Touch she won during the annual 401(k) Day raffle held on Sept. 11, 2009.

What is a 401(k) Day?

401(k) Day is an annual celebration that highlights the benefits of saving through employer-sponsored retirement plans. Just as retirement follows work, 401(k) Day follows Labor Day. This year 401(k) Day was celebrated on Sept. 11, with the theme "Make Wise Choices." It stresses the importance of making wise choices to ensure long-term health, not just physically but financially as well.

Remember, only you can ensure that you will have enough money saved for your retirement. Communication and education about 401(k) Plans is crucial to participants, most especially when times are turbulent. 401(k) Day raises awareness of the valuable benefits of participating in a company's 401(k) Plan. Every employee needs to make an active decision to save for retirement. Making wise choices also encompasses the concept that the choices we make today determine our tomorrow. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 29, 1999

Teno, lawmakers decide to scrap FY 2000 budget

Unable to reach consensus as to which departments and agencies should suffer budget cuts, the Legislature and the administration decided yesterday not to pass the spending proposal for FY 2000, while granting Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio greater flexibility in managing government resources. This means that the government will operate under the same spending limit approved last year, but with restrictions to ensure departments and agencies do not exceed their appropriations. The House of Representatives, however, may have to pass a budget bill within the next two months with the cooperation of the Senate and the Tenorio administration, according to Speaker Diego T. Benavente.

DOLI: Number of guest workers drop

The CNMI government has carried out reforms to reduce the number of overstaying aliens and curb the abuse of guest workers in Northern Marianas, according to Labor and Immigration Secretary Mark D. Zachares. In a letter to U.S. Sen. Frank Murkowski, chairman of the Resources Committee, DOLI chief debunked claims by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service General Counsel Bo Cooper that majority of the nonresident workers are "temporarily" employed under indentured contracts. Zachares dismissed the statement of the INS representative during the hearing conducted by the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources that there are 7,000 undocumented aliens residing in the Commonwealth.

Sept. 29, 2000

OPA tells govt: Fight corruption

The CNMI government needs extra effort to fight graft and corruption in public service which Public Auditor Leo LaMotte said is quite rampant in the Northern Marianas and should be addressed immediately. "The level of corruption in the Northern Marianas is quite intolerable although there is as much corruption in the CNMI as there is in other countries throughout the world," Mr. LaMotte said in an interview yesterday. "People are the same all over the world, they all pursue their own self interest and that's where corruption begins," he said, adding that the level of corruption in the CNMI is slowly taking its toll on the government's resources and trustworthiness.

NMIRF seeks $6M to settle govt's unpaid bills

The Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund is seeking a $6 million funding from the Legislature to wipe out the outstanding debt of the government's health insurance program and hire a review utilization firm. Health providers from the U.S. mainland and Hawaii have demanded $5 million to settle the unpaid billings of the government health insurance, according to Vicente Camacho, board chair of the NMIRF. But the release of funding from the Legislature is dependent on the hiring of a review utilization firm by the Fund.

Sept. 29, 2002

Business earnings down 16 percent

Businesses in the Northern Marianas continue to reel from the financial affliction caused by the mammoth drop in visitor arrivals since 1998, giving birth to a historic four-year-old economic crisis in the Commonwealth. Records obtained from the CNMI Department of Finance revealed that Business Gross Revenue dropped 16.5 percent during the first semester of the financial year 2002 compared with the tally during the same period last year. The DoF figures, contained in the Quarterly Economic Indicators report prepared by the Central Statistics Division of the commerce department, disclosed that Business Gross Revenue amounted to $883 million in the first half of FY2002, lower by $175 million in the average semestral's tally of $1.058 billion last fiscal year.

Elvis rocks Saipan

The King of Rock 'N Roll, Elvis Presley, has been dead 25 years but his legacy lives on through the thousands of impersonators who have memorialized his voice, songs, signature moves and essentially, his 42-year existence. One such impersonator, or as he prefers to call it, illusionist, is James Primacio, Hard Rock Café-Guam's sole Elvis act. Over the weekend, the 38-year-old Elvis mimic awed partygoers at the Hard Rock Café-Saipan on the occasion of its 4th Birthday bash. Primacio, who has studied Elvisology since he was young, has mastered The King's grooves while singing his popular tunes.

Island Snapshots

GUAM VISIT
Guam Gov. Felix Camacho, right, introduces Anthony M. Babauta, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas, center, during his first official visit to the U.S. territory. Babauta arrived in Guam on Sept. 23, 2009. While in Guam, Babauta met with Camacho and his Cabinet as well as with Speaker Judith Won Pat and members of the Guam Legislature. Accompanying Babauta is Office of Insular Affairs director Nikolao I. Pula, left, and White House Intergovernmental Affairs staff assistant Michael Block, second from left.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MANAGAHA BOUND
Sea Ventures' Jambalaya ferry is filled with adults and children taking part in the Chief Aghurubw commemoration rites on Managaha Island on Saturday morning.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

CAMPAIGN RALLY
Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, second from right, and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, right, lead the Covenant Party's rally and road waving at the Garapan Fishing Base on Sunday morning.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

People fall in line for food at the Covenant Party's rally at the Garapan Fishing Base on Sunday. Another rally will be held in end-October, leading up to the Nov. 7 general elections.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, right, addresses the crowd in Carolinian during the Chief Aghurubw commemoration rites on Managaha Island on Saturday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

ESSAY CONTEST WINNER
Adeleyah Mojica speaks to the crowd after being declared the winner in the Hafa Adai Tirow Way essay contest at the Garapan Street Market on Sept. 17, 2009. At left is Marianas Tourism Education Council president and Saipan Grand Hotel GM Ed Cho.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and other Covenant Party candidates for the Nov. 7 general elections sing the U.S. and CNMI National Anthems on stage at the Covenant Party rally on Sunday morning at the Garapan Fishing Base.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

WRITER'S WORKSHOP
Present and future writers of different nationalities attend *Saipan Tribune* columnist Walt Goodridge's first Writer's Workshop held Sunday, Sept 27, 2009, at the Marianas Trades Institute on Saipan. Request to be notified of future business and entrepreneurial workshops by contacting walt@saipanliving.com.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Another nuclear plant

The revelation that Iran has been illegally hiding another nuclear plant represented an intelligence coup for the United States and its allies, and it was delivered at an important moment—just days before the first meeting in a year between Iran and the international coalition that has been pressing for a suspension of its nuclear program. The uranium enrichment facility, hidden in tunnels under a mountain near the city of Qom, looks like the sort of clandestine plant that U.S. intelligence agencies predicted Iran would use to produce a weapon; officials say that when it is operational, it could deliver the material for a bomb in a year. If that was its purpose, then its discovery has dealt Iran's program a setback.

The public announcement, which U.S. officials said they had been planning since July, also offers the Obama administration an opportunity to energize what has looked like a lagging campaign to focus international pressure on Tehran. Gathered for the Group of 20 summit, President Obama, French President Nicolas Sarkozy and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown took turns Friday underlining the seriousness of Iran's latest violation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and warning of harsh consequences if the Islamic regime did not soon take steps to comply with the Security Council resolutions it has defied for years.

Whether the regime of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and Mahmoud Ahmadinejad will be moved by the warnings is another matter. The two leaders give every indication of believing their own rhetoric, which declares that the United States and its allies are incapable of stopping the nuclear program or of mounting serious sanctions. Nor does Ahmadinejad show any intention of negotiating seriously with the group of five permanent Security Council members and Germany at the upcoming talks in Geneva. The coup that Ayatollah Khamenei and Ahmadinejad launched against moderates within the regime this summer is aimed at perpetuating Iran's belligerent policies toward the West. It follows that outside powers will have little chance of stopping the nuclear program through peaceful means unless the two leaders lose power in the ongoing domestic conflict. Strong sanctions could help the Iranian opposition if average citizens blame the regime for shortages, rising prices or other economic disruptions. But Ahmadinejad probably reckons that he can use them to rally the country behind him.

That will be harder if the steps have the backing of Russia and China as well as the West—which is why the Obama administration is focusing diplomacy on those governments. Russian President Dmitry Medvedev hinted at support for sanctions this week, but it's not clear that Moscow's real ruler, Vladimir Putin, agrees. China continues to oppose sanctions in public while quietly striking deals to supply Iran with the gasoline that would be one of the best targets for an embargo.

The United States must make clear to those governments that it will not settle for inaction against a regime that is brazenly defying international treaties and U.N. Security Council resolutions. At the same time, the administration should reassess the intelligence community's conclusion about whether and how quickly Iran is seeking a weapon. If it had not been discovered, the Qom plant could have given Iran the means for a bomb by 2011 without the world knowing about it. And if there is one clandestine facility, most likely there are others.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

THE GUY WHO RUNS RED LIGHTS
THE GUY WHO TALKS TOO LOUD ON HIS CELL PHONE
SO DO WE HAVE A DEAL OR WHAT?!
THE GUY WHO FAILS TO WASH HIS HANDS WHEN USING THE RESTROOM
KOTERBA

Dealing with Iran's deception

By HOWARD L. BERMAN
Special to The Washington Post

The writer, a Democratic representative from California, is chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

WASHINGTON—Tehran could soon have humankind's most frightening weapon if substantial diplomatic progress is not made in the coming days.

The United States, along with its partners Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany (known as the "P5 plus one"), will sit down on Thursday with a representative of Iran. From the American perspective, the principal item on the agenda is Iran's illicit nuclear program. Iran's leaders have said they are prepared to talk about virtually anything but that. If diplomacy does not rapidly deliver results, the United States will have to adopt tough measures to stop Iran from obtaining nuclear arms.

For years Iran spurned diplomatic overtures to address the threat posed by its nuclear program. Meanwhile, its efforts have progressed to the point that it already has enough low-enriched uranium to produce fuel for at least one nuclear bomb.

Tehran's admission this week that it has secretly constructed a second enrichment plant suggests that its program may be further along than we had imagined. We do not have much time to wait.

I support President Obama's efforts to engage Iran. Thanks to these efforts, no one will be able to say that we failed to do everything possible to give Iran a diplomatic way out. But there is more than ample reason to be skeptical that the regime in Tehran intends to come clean about its nuclear program.

Friday's revelations about the second uranium enrichment plant cast a particularly dark shadow over Iranian intentions, and they come after more than 20 years of deception and stonewalling by Tehran.

It is critical that we set clear timelines and benchmarks by which to judge Iranian intentions as well as unambiguous consequences if Iran fails to meet the criteria. The window for Iran to demonstrate seriousness of purpose should start with the Oct. 1 meeting and, as Obama has indicated, should close by the end of the year.

If Tehran is serious about engagement, it should agree early on to meaningful steps, such as a "freeze for freeze" in which Iran does not add to its enrichment capabilities—including halting construction on the second enrichment facility, as verified by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)—in exchange for an agreement that no additional international sanctions would be imposed during this period. Iran must also agree to verifiably suspend nuclear enrichment by year's end. Were that to happen, the international community could enter into detailed negotiations with Iran about all issues of concern and the incentives that could be offered in exchange for a satisfactory understanding of Iran's nuclear intentions and assurance that Iran would not be able to acquire a nuclear weapons capability.

But if, as I expect, that scenario does not come to pass, we should be ready immediately to impose what Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has called "crippling sanctions." Iran's economy is in terrible shape, and the regime no longer can take for granted the support of its citizens. The best conduit for such sanctions would be a mandatory U.N. Security Council resolution. That would require the difficult-to-obtain acquiescence of Russia and China. Failing that, multilateral agreement by the Europeans, Japan, Australia and Canada to impose coordinated financial, trade and investment sanctions would be a serious alternative. If even that proves impossible, I believe the threat posed to our national security by the possibility of a nuclear-armed Iran obligates the United States to impose sanctions unilaterally.

The Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act, which I, along with Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, the ranking Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, introduced, provides such authority to act. The bill, which has more than 300 co-sponsors (its companion in the Senate has 75 co-sponsors), provides President Obama with a mandate to increase the level of financial penalties against Iran and would prevent companies that facilitate the provision of gasoline and other refined petroleum products to Iran from doing business in the United States. Much of the world's trade is conducted through international financial transactions in dollars that must be cleared through American banks. So if the United States were to prevent any bank doing business with Iranian banks from clearing dollar transactions, the Iranian banking system would collapse. And because Iran has to import 25 percent or more of its daily demand for refined petroleum, its economy would be seriously impaired if it were denied those imports. Indeed, a credible threat of both these sanctions might provide the best chance to persuade the Iranian regime to agree to suspend its nuclear enrichment.

To have a sanctions bill ready for the president's signature by early next year, we must start the process for passing it now. I intend to bring our bill to committee for consideration next month. Should negotiations with Iran not succeed and should multilateral sanctions not get off the ground, we must be prepared to do what we can on our own.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

America by Rails Part 9: Upstate New England

Travel notes, live and on virtual time (a social commentary)

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

Coal still reigns as the energy fuel in America, or at least along the mideastern seaboard. At the railway siding in Rochester, NY, is a long convoy of coal freight cars, perhaps scraped off the hills of West Virginia, standing menacingly to pollute the air once fired, as the old Kodak building stood benignly on the horizon. The feel of this multi-spired stronghold of Calvin's Presbyteries is that of a city that has seen better days. The infrastructure, at least, by the rail station, appears to be in sad disrepair.

My memory bank conjures images of Oakland, CA in the '60s, Newark, NJ in the '70s, Pittsburg, PA in the '80s and Detroit, MI in the '90s—urban beauties in decline waiting for the knight in a shining armor for magical redemption, transformation, and rebirth. This, of course, may just be my imagination this early late summer day, even as the surrounding foliage is beginning to turn flashy gold and bright red, deep browns, and wild violets, about to burst into Renoir pastels before the frosty winds of winter come.

Weather watching has become a national pastime in America. There was one night early this year that it was cooler in Alabama than it was in the lower Alaska. In this trip, to paraphrase an old misquote, "I spent the coldest night of this year one summer night in San Francisco!" Weather patterns even in Phoenix and Albuquerque reportedly had gone the way of the gyrations of the stock market. At least, Washington, D.C. is no longer in denial on global warming and climate change.

It is the social weather we have been commenting on, and the temperature of the pulse beat of America that we have been paying attention to. But first, a word on the state of the trains. I must admit that the *Lakeshore Limited* running between Chicago and Boston/NY, has better facilities than the *Southwest Chief* of the Chicago-L.A. run. For one, the West Coast runs still use the double-storied cabooses that sway when the train reaches a certain speed.

The eastern runs are single-storied and sleek, with the interior looking like an Airbus business class with electric outlets. WiFi capability (now available on the fast *Acella* clippers that shuttle between Boston and Washington, D.C. via NYC) awaits to be installed in all the units. The restrooms look more spacious and occupant-friendly, the diner more plebian than old-world snotty, and not having to ascend narrow stairs to a second floor makes it easier for the *tapangsi,* large-size rotunds, to maneuver and not feel too conspicuous. Overhead bins and luggage racks are also more convenient and functional.

There is also a marked difference in the foliage, at least, between Rochester and Syracuse, NY, with diverse trees in the forest with dogwoods, aspens, maples, oaks, spruces, cedars, and birches but nary a pine, a contrast to the mono-crop Northwest. That diversity makes for stronger trees and less susceptibility to insects and pests.

The crawl afforded sights of abandoned factories and farms, hidden junkyards, and aging technologies that are probably taking time to be replaced. I was reminded of the rapid advances in cellular technology in Third World countries since they did not have to protect the network of landlines already in place in developed worlds. Broadband and optic fibers were easier to install where one did not have to fight the vested interests of protected turfs of old technologies.

The Boston Metropolitan area is settled territory. Very settled. Nature is at the service of humanity, but the commons and the parks look well tended and cared for. I am billeted at historic Lexington, NW, of Cambridge across the Charles River, where the first shot of the American Revolution was made and from where Paul Revere galloped to Concord to alert the infantry that the British were coming. The familiar statue of the Minuteman, once glorified across the nation until certain groups besmirched its reputation with constricting political ideology, still stands at the triangle where once South Church's pulpit echoed the characteristic American oratory of individual revival and social renewal.

My hosts, an architect artist and school nurse, both retired, are renovating the skylight of their home near the Historic Museum not far from the tavern occupied by the Red Coats before engaging the Blue Coats in the art of musketry. Both are progressive stalwarts in the religious and public life of the community in both areas of personal transformation and social engagement. He serves as an elected official in the town council. The house and the yard have the feel of a "settled" dwelling with obvious intentionality in interior décor and landscaping.

In Rowley, not to far from the previous whaling seaport of Newburyport, (pronounced Newbyport by the locals) lives a colleague about to undergo surgery for thyroid cancer. A former teacher in New Hampshire, he is a member of a private, member-funded singing group that performs concerts once every two years in places around the world not normally visited by American choirs. He stopped in Saipan some years back from a concert in Korea, not an inexpensive side trip. A visit to him is the *raison d'etre* for this leg of the journey.

With the United Nations General Assembly convening in New York, the issue of habitat and ecology will be paramount in the glocal consciousness again.

Ecology is a daily concern around here in upstate New England. The Rowley friend is executer of his mother's estate and not wanting to endure any more New England winters, he placed the 18-some acres of wood-and-marshland behind his house for development. Designated for low-cost elderly dwellings, he is finding resistance from neighbors opposing increased traffic on ecological grounds. A businessman down the road powers the lights in his shop with a single wind turbine as big as those flowers of the desert in California.

The Lexington dwelling of my host has electrical and water zone controls in the house. Divided into five areas, the electricity and water are programmed to switch off and on at designated times, judiciously minimizing the quantity and maximizing the use of both. Recycling systems and structures are in place for almost everything. If the category of "intentional community" lit up for me while visiting Portland, Oregon, "intentional dwellings" will have to characterize the habitat of my friends in their dwellings here in Upstate New England. Now, if we can only have "intentional glocal people," paying attention to their lives, managing themselves as valuable resource rather than just expandable accidents of history, or peons in an economic empire, or trigger fingers of arsenals of mass destructions, we'd all be ready to face the challenge of the Millennium, not to mention the nitty-gritty up-against-ness of daily existence!

Letters to the Editor

The Saipan solution

Could the US Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the furthest east, and perhaps least known of America's territories in the Pacific, take center stage and become a bargaining chip in diplomatic relations between the US, Russia and China in light of the perceived threat from Iran's nuclear proliferation? Joe Hill, an attorney on the island of Saipan, the Commonwealth's capital and center of economic activity, thinks so, and he may not be the only one.

"There are a few pieces of the puzzle," Hill suggests, "that, if they could just connect somehow, might prove a perfect solution to our problem." Hill has run a private law practice on Saipan since 1978.

Puzzle Piece No. 1: The CNMI Visa Waiver

The "problem" at issue is the impending federalization of the Commonwealth's immigration under Public Law 110-229, scheduled for Nov. 28, 2009, which is being resisted by many of Saipan's residents, leadership and business community because of its anticipated effect on the island's sole source of economic viability: tourism.

Saipan's year-round tropical weather, white sandy beaches, clear water and world-class diving has made it a popular Pacific island vacation getaway for Japanese, Russian, Chinese and American tourists for over 30 years.

Saipan, which has controlled its own immigration policies since its political union with the United States in 1975, extended a waiver of the costly, and time-consuming visa requirement for Russian and Chinese visitors, allowing them to travel freely to vacation on Saipan's shores.

The new law, which would effectively bring the Commonwealth under U.S. immigration law and control threatens that waiver, effectively cutting off a potentially profitable stream of tourist dollars which the island needs in order to recover from the crippling effects of the recent departure of its now infamous garment industry.

Puzzle Piece No. 2: Iran's Deception

It's just been reported that Iran has been withholding information about a secret nuclear program. U.S. President Obama now seeks Chinese and Russian support (along with Britain, France and Germany—the P5 countries) to impose sanctions on Iran.

"Obviously, the most important thing on Obama's agenda is rallying the P5 countries together to put pressure on Iran," Hill reasons. "However, a good faith gesture like allowing the citizens of your desired allies to travel to the tropical shores of one of your possessions could be used as a chip to garner that support and build toward even friendlier future relations."

Just about any resident of Saipan will tell you that businesses there are in a state of limbo based on the uncertainty of the coming federalization. Investments in the island have been stalled, Construction is down. Tourism is decreasing as Russians and Chinese, expecting that they'll no longer be allowed the luxury of a Saipan paradise vacation, are looking and booking elsewhere.

The Saipan Solution:

Might the U.S. maintain the Russia and China visa waiver program, which has proven beneficial and incident-free for all these years, as an olive branch—a way of softening relations with Russia and China?

"It's a small gesture," Hill acknowledges. "It's a small thing in a much bigger picture, but it's of major importance to us American citizens, and resident workers living on Saipan, and perhaps could be an incremental step in fostering good relations between the US, Russia and China."

A long shot? Perhaps, but for the people of Saipan and the Northern Mariana Islands, whose livelihoods are threatened, whose families face separation as a result of the controversial law, and the end of the visa waiver, it's a shot worth taking.

For more about Saipan, Public Law PL110-229, and the visa waiver program, visit www.DestinationSaipan.com.

Walt F.J. Goodridge
via e-mail

If I had a hammer

Very simply stated: "What good is bringing in more carpenter's when you do not have enough hammers?" It appears the message is still not clear. The CNMI needs improved medical technology, not just physicians! If you have technology in place, the doctors will hopefully follow and some medical referrals will be avoided. Bringing in more physicians is not the entire solution.

Again, I ask, where are the supplies? Up-to-date CT scanner? Provide access to adequate blood supplies for emergencies and for the day-to-day operation of a medical care machine. Why does the CNMI not have the facility to process donated blood for use? Why? The technology is "not on island"—again another of many items on the long and impressive "not on island" medical supplies needs list.

It is true there will be medical referral needed for procedures that cannot be performed on island. Bypass surgery for coronary disease being the major one, followed by neurologic surgical interventions as well as some cancer related treatments. These issues are bigger tuna and can be approached for solution once a solid medical foundation is put down.

The quality of care can be vastly improved by "retooling the medical toolbox" with the basic items needed to provide reasonable care. There is no excuse for not having the ability to process donor blood for use on island. No available excuse for not having a CT scanner that can detect disease processes properly and save lives. No excuse for not having proper dressing materials, proper splinting material for fracture management. The list is long and nauseating.

Sure, bring in more carpenters, however if you do, please give them the needed "hammers" to provide reasonable proper care in the CNMI.

Edward Cornett, M.D.
Capital Hill, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy and breezy with scattered showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy and windy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
▲87° ▼78°	▲83° ▼78°	▲85° ▼75°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

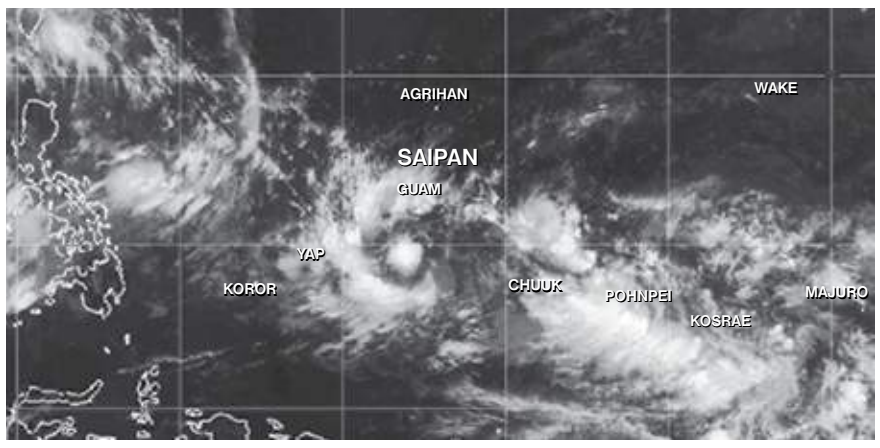
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲87	▼77
Palau	Showers	▲85	▼77
Yap	Rain	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼77
Kosrae	Rain	▲88	▼79
Majuro	Rain	▲86	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲63	▼54
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼54
Hong Kong	Rain	▲86	▼79
Honolulu	Showers	▲85	▼78
London	Partly Sunny	▲68	▼52
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲78	▼60
Manila	Showers	▲87	▼78
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲65	▼50
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲90	▼74
New York	Partly Sunny	▲68	▼54
Osaka	Showers	▲80	▼66
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼56
Pusan	Rain	▲71	▼67
Rome	Sunny	▲77	▼57
Salem	Showers	▲60	▼44
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲65	▼54
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼63
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲79	▼66
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲72	▼53

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Depression 18W with maximum sustained winds of 30 mph is centered near 11N155E and is moving west-northwest at 15 mph. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found within 100 miles of the system center. For more information on Tropical Depression 18W, see National Weather Service bulletins issued under WTPQ32 PGUM or JTWC bulletins issued under WMO header WTPN32 PGTW. The monsoon trough extends east-southeastward from the central Philippines through 15N130E to a developing circulation centered south of Guam near 10N145E then eastward through Tropical Depression 18W then finally continues southeastward through another circulation centered at 4N168E to end at EQ170E. Numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms associated with the circulation centered at 4N168E can be found near Pohnpei and over Kosrae and parts of the Marshall Islands within an area bounded by a line from 11N159E to 8N160E to EQ160E to EQ171E to 3N171E to 11N164E back to 11N159E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found west of the Mariana Islands and over Yap and Koror within an area bounded by a line from 19N137E to 15N130E to 10N130E to 7N134E to 10N140E back to 19N137E and south of the Mariana Islands between 8N and 12N from 144E to 147E. Convergent west winds are triggering scattered showers south of Chuuk and Pohnpei within an area bounded by a line from EQ160E to 8N160E to 5N146E to 3N144E back to EQ160E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms east of the Marshall Islands between 5N and 10N from 173E to 180. A surface trough arcs north-northeastward from 20N130E to 25BN132E. Convergence near and to the east of the trough is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms west of a line from 18N132E to 25N134E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
2:52 AM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
10:17 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
5:29 PM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
11:13 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:07 AM	6:08 PM
Wednesday	6:07 AM	6:07 PM
Thursday	6:07 AM	6:07 PM
Friday	6:07 AM	6:06 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:05 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:48 PM	1:42 AM
Wednesday	3:26 PM	2:32 AM
Thursday	4:02 PM	3:20 AM
Friday	4:38 PM	4:08 AM
Saturday	5:14 PM	4:56 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:50am	12:25pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
C09603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 5, 6
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1, 3, 4, 6

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 (last DAILY flight leaves SPN Sep 26)

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:30pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:15am	3:50am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:10am	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:20am	11:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:35pm	1:40am+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
NW100	8:40pm	1:20am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 effective Oct 1

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7 (last DAILY flight leaves NGO Sep 26)

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	4, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:50pm	2:30pm+1	3, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	4, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Business

Job losses, early retirements hurt Social Security

WASHINGTON (AP)—Big job losses and a spike in early retirement claims from laid-off seniors will force Social Security to pay out more in benefits than it collects in taxes the next two years, the first time that's happened since the 1980s.

The deficits—$10 billion in 2010 and $9 billion in 2011—won't affect payments to retirees because Social Security has accumulated surpluses from previous years totaling $2.5 trillion. But they will add to the overall federal deficit.

Applications for retirement benefits are 23 percent higher than last year, while disability claims have risen by about 20 percent. Social Security officials had expected applications to increase from the growing number of baby boomers reaching retirement, but they didn't expect the increase to be so large.

What happened? The recession hit and many older workers suddenly found themselves laid off with no place to turn but Social Security.

"A lot of people who in better times would have continued working are opting to retire," said Alan J. Auerbach, an economics and law professor at the University of California, Berkeley. "If they were younger, we would call them unemployed."

Job losses are forcing more retirements even though an increasing number of older people want to keep working. Many can't afford to retire, especially after the financial collapse demolished their nest eggs.

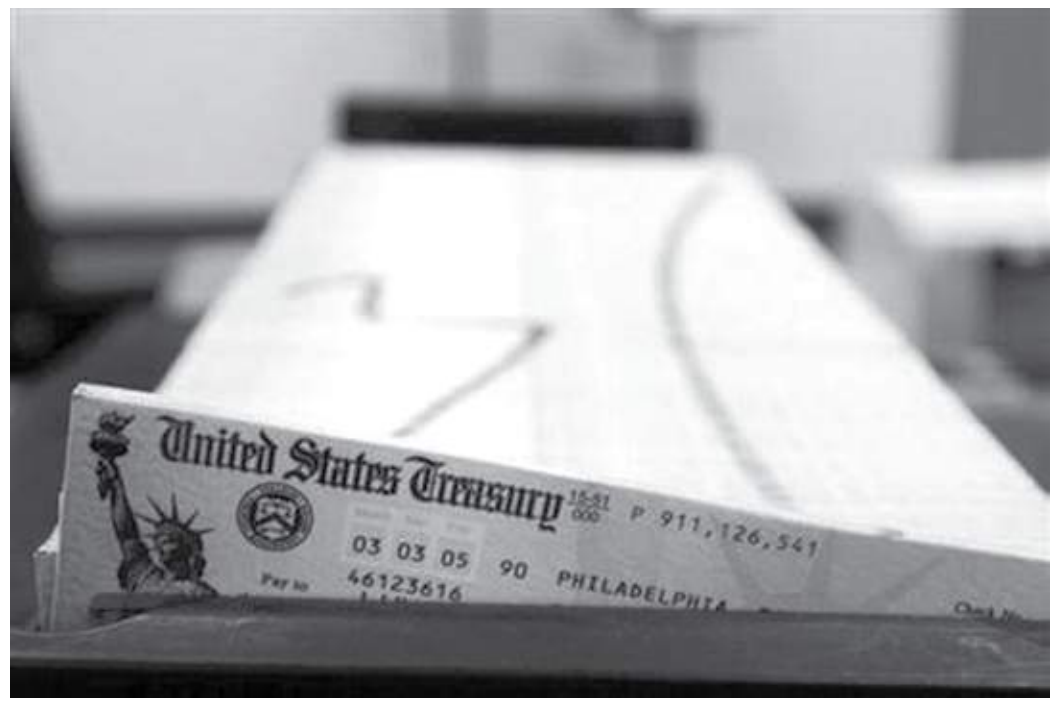
Some have no choice.

Marylyn Kish turns 62 in December, making her eligible for early benefits. She wants to put off applying for Social Security until she is at least 67 because the longer you wait, the larger your monthly check.

But she first needs to find a job.

Kish lives in tiny Concord Township in Lake County, Ohio, northeast of Cleveland. The region, like many others, has been hit hard by the recession.

She was laid off about a year ago from her job as an office manager at an employment agency and now spends hours each morning scouring job sites on the Internet. Neither she nor her husband, Raymond, has health insurance.



AP

In this Feb. 11, 2005 file photo, trays of printed social security checks wait to be mailed from the U.S. Treasury's Financial Management services facility in Philadelphia.

Dr. Mobius to address Asia's growing economy

In the midst of the global economic uncertainty, the world is turning hopeful eyes toward the Asian region where emerging markets continue to grow and thrive despite grim predictions earlier this year.

Mobius

But while this positive news might lure those in the region into a hazardous feeling of complacency, the Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies stresses the importance of continuing vigilance and ongoing education in order to maintain Asia's growing markets.

This October, APAFS will hold their 9th Pacific Region Investment Conference in Manila for the fourth time. APAFS is the premiere, non-profit organization in the region seeking to provide education forums for fiduciaries in order that they may better exercise prudent stewardship over funds entrusted to their care. The PRIC is their annual initiative to equip fiduciaries within the region with knowledge that is up to date with current issues and trends, focusing on specific matters pertinent to those in the Asia Pacific area.

Through the PRIC, APAFS brings in finance experts from the United States and other Western countries to the Asia-Pacific region as part of their efforts to combine professional training with regional understanding in its country conferences and in PRIC.

Notably, this year's keynote speaker is emerging markets expert Dr. Mark Mobius, Executive Chairman of Templeton Asset Management, LLC where he directs the Templeton research team based in 15 emerging markets offices across the globe and manages several emerging markets portfolios for both retail and institutional investors.

Baggage fees join your overseas flights

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—You can leave the U.S., but it's getting harder to leave behind baggage fees.

Fees to check bags on international flights are creeping in and may be here to stay. In the past three months, all the big U.S. carriers have added $50 fees to check a second bag on flights to Europe. Delta and Continental are charging second-bag fees for flights to Latin America, too.

We've flown this route before, with domestic bag fees. United Airlines started with a fee to check a second bag last year, and other carriers followed. The wave of international bag fees got started July 1 when Delta began charging to check a second bag between the U.S. and Europe.

By limiting baggage fees to domestic flights, the U.S. carriers left out a huge chunk of their traffic. More than half of Continental's traffic this year has been international. At Delta, which started the move toward international bag fees, almost 39 percent of its traffic is international.

So far, the U.S. carriers don't charge bag fees on most Asian routes. That will likely change. And charging to check the first bag on international flights is a revenue opportunity that might be too good to pass up.

"Yes. Of course baggage fees will spread worldwide to include even the first bag," said Jay Sorensen, an airline consultant who has studied and written about the carriers' so-called ancillary revenue.

"I think baggage fees will be the most widespread of the a la carte fees, because they truly are optional," he said. "You don't have to check a bag."

Sorensen said U.S. carriers will run into trouble charging fees on codeshare flights, where a ticket on, say, fee-charging Delta, might have been sold by partner Air France, which checks two bags for free.

Gap Inc. co-founder Donald Fisher dies

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Donald G. Fisher, who co-founded apparel giant Gap Inc., has died at age 81 after a long battle with cancer.

The company said Fisher died at his home in San Francisco on Sunday morning surrounded by his family. Those who knew him said he was a great entrepreneur and philanthropist who helped shape the retail world and his local community.

Fisher and his wife Doris opened the first Gap in 1969 in San Francisco, after running into difficulties finding jeans that fit. They named the store after the idea of "The Generation Gap" and sold jeans and music, to appeal to a younger crowd.

The simple, affordable style that became the namesake brand's trademark resonated with shoppers and took off quickly.

AP

This 1969 photo provided by Gap Inc. shows Doris and Don Fisher in front of the first Gap store in San Francisco, Calif.

A former real estate developer with no previous retailing experience, Fisher initially anticipated maybe "as many as 10" stores. But Gap grew to be one of the nation's largest specialty retailers with more than 3,000 stores in over 25 countries.

Gap Inc. now also operates the Banana Republic, Old Navy, Piperlime and Athleta brands. It became a publicly traded company in 1976 and reported sales of $14.5 billion in its 2008 fiscal year.

Fisher guided the company through its largest growth phases, serving as CEO from the company's inception through 1995 and as its chairman until 2004. He continued as a company director and as chairman emeritus until his death.

"Today we lost a friend, a mentor and a great visionary," Glenn Murphy, CEO and chairman of Gap Inc. said in a statement. "Don and Doris took a simple idea and turned it into a brand recognized as a cultural icon throughout the world and changed the face of retail forever."

National Retail Federation CEO Tracy Mullin said Fisher's true entrepreneurship permeated everything he did, and was part of the reason Gap became such a great global brand.

"It feels like the end of an era in a way," Mullin said. "He really was unique in many ways and people really liked him."

The company was one of the first dominant brands, pioneering the idea of cheap chic, retail consultant Burt Flickinger III said. He said many retailers continue to model themselves based on the company's design.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Wal-Mart best symbolizes America, a new poll finds

NEW YORK (AP)—Half the respondents of a new poll say taxing the richest Americans by at least 50 percent is a great idea, while more than a third consider Twitter a fad that will likely fade. Those are among the findings of a new "60 Minutes"-Vanity Fair Poll released Sunday. Nearly half of the respondents chose Wal-Mart as the institution that best symbolizes America today, leaving in the dust runners-up Google, Microsoft, the NFL, and the banking and securities firm Goldman Sachs. Dining out was chosen most often by respondents as a luxury they hate sacrificing in these tough economic times. And 5 percent thought the best way to fight obesity among patrons of fast-food chains is to equip each restaurant with scales for them to weigh themselves.

Report: Kraft could make hostile bid for Cadbury

Kraft Foods Inc. is poised to launch a hostile bid for British candy maker Cadbury PLC, The Observer said Sunday, citing unnamed sources. Kraft earlier this month made a $16.7 billion stock-and-cash proposal that was rebuffed by the U.K. confectionary company. Cadbury has repeatedly said it is not interested in a takeover but the U.S. food maker has said it remains focused on continuing negotiations. According to the London paper, Kraft is valuing Cadbury at 11 billion pounds, or about $17.45 billion.

Report: Stanford to be released soon from hospital

CONROE, Texas (AP)—A U.S. Marshals Service spokesman says jailed Texas financier R. Allen Stanford may be released from an undisclosed hospital either Sunday or Monday following a fight with another inmate. Spokesman Alfredo Perez said Sunday that the 59-year-old Stanford suffered superficial injuries. It was unclear why Stanford remained hospitalized. The fight happened Thursday at a federal detention facility about 40 miles north of Houston.

Nation

Attorney: OKC bombing tapes appear edited

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Long-secret security tapes showing the chaos immediately after the 1995 bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building are blank in the minutes before the blast and appear to have been edited, an attorney who obtained the recordings said Sunday.

"The real story is what's missing," said Jesse Trentadue, a Salt Lake City attorney who obtained the recordings through the federal Freedom of Information Act as part of an unofficial inquiry he is conducting into the April 19, 1995, bombing that killed 168 people and injured hundreds more.

Trentadue gave copies of the tapes to The Oklahoman newspaper, which posted them online and provided copies to The Associated Press.

The tapes turned over by the FBI came from security cameras various companies had mounted outside office buildings near the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. They are blank at points before 9:02 a.m., when a truck bomb carrying a 4,000 pound fertilizer-and-fuel-oil bomb detonated in front of the building, Trentadue said.

"Four cameras in four different locations going blank at basically the same time on the morning of April 19, 1995. There ain't no such thing as a coincidence," Trentadue said.

He said government officials claim the security cameras did not record the minutes before the bombing because "they had run out of tape" or "the tape was being replaced."

"The interesting thing is they spring back on after 9:02," he said. "The absence of footage from these crucial time intervals is evidence that there is something there that the FBI doesn't want anybody to see."

A spokesman for the FBI in Oklahoma City, Gary Johnson, declined to comment and referred inquiries about the tapes to FBI officials in Washington, who were not immediately available for comment Sunday.

The soundless recordings show people rushing from nearby buildings after the bomb went off. Some show people fleeing through corridors cluttered with debris. None show the actual explosion that ripped through the federal building.

AP

This frame grab taken from security video released by the FBI and provided to The Oklahoman shows people moving through a nearby building shortly after the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City on April 19, 1995.

FBI agents did not report finding any security tapes from the federal building itself.

The FBI in the past refused to release the security camera recordings, leading Trentadue and others to contend the government was hiding evidence that others were involved in the attack.

"It's taken a lawsuit and years to get the tapes," Trentadue said.

He received the latest batch of tapes over the summer in response to an April request for video from security cameras in 11 different locations. Nothing on the tapes was unexpected.

"The more important thing they show is what they don't show," Trentadue said. "These cameras would have shown the various roads and approaches to the Murrah Building."

Trentadue began looking into the bombing after his brother, Kenneth Trentadue, died at the Oklahoma City Federal Transfer Center in August 1995. Kenneth Trentadue was a convicted bank robber who was held at the federal prison after being picked up as a parole violator at his home in San Diego in June 1995.

He was never a bombing suspect, but Jesse Trentadue alleges guards mistook his brother for one and beat him to death during an interrogation. The official cause of Kenneth Trentadue's death is listed as suicide, but his body had 41 wounds and bruises that Jesse Trentadue believes could have come only from a beating.

Study: Fewer terrorism suspects going to trial

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government is prosecuting only about one out of four of those charged in connection with terrorism, according to a study that suggests federal agencies don't agree on who is a terrorist.

People charged with terrorism often go free because the evidence wasn't strong enough to bring them to trial, says the study by the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, a data research group at Syracuse University.

Since 2002, the percentage of terrorism cases that federal prosecutors declined to pursue has grown from 31 percent to 73 percent, the TRAC study found.

Nearly 6,000 of the close to 8,900 cases referred for prosecution by federal investigators between 2004 and 2008 were closed without action. Of the remaining cases, 2,302 people were convicted and 1,245 went to prison, the study found, and just 52 were sentenced to 20 years or more.

AP

In this photo released by the New York City Police Department, Najibullah Zazi, center, is escorted off an NYPD helicopter by U.S Marshals after being extradited from Denver, Colo., Friday, Sept. 25, 2009.

According to the data, U.S. attorneys reported that the cases brought to them by investigators were often based on weak or insufficient admissible evidence, lacked criminal intent or did not constitute a federal offense.

The Justice Department disagrees with TRAC's analysis and conclusions and says the data omits some statistics and uses data that differs from the agency's information.

"In the eight years since the Sept. 11 attacks, the Justice Department has significantly improved its ability to identify, penetrate and dismantle terrorist plots," said spokesman Dean Boyd.

Terror charges can range from dramatic bombing plots to immigration violations or certain instances of financial fraud and identity theft.

Intense tracking for swine flu shot's side effects

WASHINGTON (AP)—More than 3,000 people a day have a heart attack. If you're one of them the day after your swine flu shot, will you worry the vaccine was to blame and not the more likely culprit, all those burgers and fries?

The government is starting an unprecedented system to track possible side effects as mass flu vaccinations begin next month. The idea is to detect any rare but real problems quickly, and explain the inevitable coincidences that are sure to cause some false alarms.

"Every day, bad things happen to people. When you vaccinate a lot of people in a short period of time, some of those things are going to happen to some people by chance alone," said Dr. Daniel Salmon, a vaccine safety specialist at the Department of Health and Human Services.

Health authorities hope to vaccinate well over half the population in just a few months against swine flu, which doctors call the 2009 H1N1 strain. That would be a feat. No more than 100 million Americans usually get vaccinated against regular winter flu, and never in such a short period.

More than half million kids get bad drug reactions

CHICAGO (AP)—More than half a million U.S. children yearly have bad reactions or side effects from widely used medicines that require medical treatment and sometimes hospitalization, new research shows.

ON THE NET:

Pediatrics: http://www.pediatrics.org

Children younger than age 5 are most commonly affected. Penicillin and other prescription antibiotics are among drugs causing the most problems, including rashes, stomachaches and diarrhea.

Parents should pay close attention when their children are started on medicines since "first-time medication exposures may reveal an allergic reaction," said lead author Dr. Florence Bourgeois, a pediatrician with Children's Hospital in Boston.

Doctors also should tell parents about possible symptoms for a new medication, she said.

The study appears in October's Pediatrics, released Monday.

It's based on national statistics on patients' visits to clinics and emergency rooms between 1995 and 2005. The number of children treated for bad drug reactions each year was mostly stable during that time, averaging 585,922.

ACROSS THE NATION

Woman charged in Smart case expects life in prison

WEST VALLEY CITY, Utah (AP)—In letters written to her mother, the woman charged in the 2002 kidnapping of Elizabeth Smart has sought forgiveness for any pain she has caused and says she expects to spend the rest of her life in prison. Wanda Eileen Barzee, 63, however, makes just one reference to Smart in the 12 letters obtained by The Associated Press. And she doesn't provide details about the nine months the girl allegedly spent with her and her now-estranged husband Brian David Mitchell. The couple is charged with multiple felonies in state court and last year was indicted by a federal grand jury. "In one of these letters, Wanda is remembering the sins that she did," said Barzee's mother, 88-year-old Dora Corbett, who provided letters sent between July 2008 and August 2009 to The AP. "She doesn't talk about it, she just remembers them and says she needs to repent of them."

Feds reviewing humpback whale endangered status

HONOLULU (AP)—The federal government is considering taking the humpback whale off the endangered species list in response to data showing the population of the massive marine mammal has been steadily growing in recent decades. Known for their acrobatic leaps from the sea and complex singing patterns, humpback whales were nearly hunted to extinction for their oil and meat by industrial-sized whaling ships well through the middle of the 20th century. But the species has been bouncing back since an international ban on their commercial whaling in 1966. "Humpbacks by and large are an example of a species that in most places seems to be doing very well, despite our earlier efforts to exterminate them," said Phillip Clapham, a senior whale biologist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Body of heiress' daughter likely found in NY river

TARRYTOWN, N.Y. (AP)—Police say they believe they've recovered the body of a woman whose suicidal jump from a suburban New York City bridge echoed her stepfather's plunge from it 15 years ago after a grisly family murder. State Police Sgt. Todd Parent says the body found Sunday afternoon in the Hudson River is believed to be that of Anne Morell Petrillo. Petrillo was the daughter of slain newspaper heiress Anne Scripps Douglas. Her stepfather, Scott Douglas, leaped to his death from the bridge in 1994 after killing her mother with a claw hammer. The family founded The Detroit News.

Asia

Philippine storm leaves 106 dead and missing

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Many Filipino villagers managed to save only the clothes on their backs but began to rebuild Sunday as the flood waters receded from a tropical storm that set off the worst flooding in the Philippine capital in 42 years and left about 80 dead.

Army troops, police and civilian volunteers plucked dead bodies from muddy flood waters and rescued drenched survivors from rooftops after Tropical Storm Ketsana tore through the northern Philippines a day earlier, leaving at least 106 people dead and missing.

Some residents began to clean up as the flood waters receded. Still, many parts of the capital remained flooded. A brief period of sunshine showed the extent of the devastation in many neighborhoods—destroyed houses, overturned vehicles, and roads covered in debris and mud.

Ketsana dumped more than a month's worth of rain in just 12 hours, causing the government to declare a "state of calamity" in metropolitan Manila and 25 storm-hit provinces. The declaration allowed officials to use emergency funds for relief and rescue.

The rains swamped entire towns and set off landslides that have left at least 83 people dead and 23 others missing, Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro said. Garbage-choked drains and waterways, along with high tide, compounded the flooding, officials said.

Governor Joselito Mendoza of Bulacan province, north of the capital, said it was tragic that "people drowned in their own houses" as the storm raged.

People wade in the chest deep floodwater Sunday, Sept. 27, 2009 in suburban Cainta, east of Manila, Philippines. AP

Meteorologists say the Philippines' location in the northwestern Pacific puts it right in the pathway of the world's No. 1 typhoon generator. Doomed by geography and hobbled by poverty, the Philippines has long tried to minimize the damage caused by the 20 or so typhoons that hit the sprawling archipelago every year. Despite a combination of preparation and mitigation measures, high death tolls and destruction persist.

"We're back to zero," said Ronald Manlangit, a resident of Marikina city, a suburb of the capital, Manila. Floodwaters engulfed the ground floor of his home and drowned his TV set and other prized belongings. Still, he expressed relief that he managed to move his children to the second floor.

"Suddenly, all of our belongings were floating," the 30-year-old said. "If the water rose farther, all of us in the neighborhood would have been killed."

Top Afghan official threatens to quit after attack

KABUL (AP)—A powerful member of President Hamid Karzai's Cabinet threatened to quit after a suicide car bomb attack targeted him Sunday, killing five people, in the latest Taliban attempt to destabilize Afghanistan's struggling government. Two Americans were among six NATO troop deaths elsewhere.

Shortly after the bombing in the western city of Herat, Energy Minister Ismail Khan railed against the dramatic rise in violence in Afghanistan, saying that thousands of new refugees are seeking shelter in Herat because of militant attacks in outlying districts. Five civilians died in the failed assassination attempt, police said.

Two days ago, Khan said, a young man was hanged by militants only a couple miles (kilometers) outside a NATO base and Afghan government center. Kidnappings of wealthy family members are on the rise, including the abduction of girls, he said.

Khan said government security agents had warned him that insurgents planned to target him. Two earlier assassination attempts had been foiled, he said.

"Very clearly I want to say that if the government does not form a clear strategy to bring peace and security, and the situation continues like this, I will not participate in the Cabinet anymore," Khan said.

Volunteers key to success of Thai vaccine trials

NONGTAPAN, Thailand (AP)—Nearly 16,000 Thais ignored the false rumors that they were being infected by the AIDS virus, and overcame their fears of becoming social outcasts to participate in trials of the first vaccine found to prevent infection with the deadly virus.

Many of the volunteers—an eclectic mix of housewives, fishermen, factory workers, laborers and even prostitutes—saw first hand how the disease ravaged this region of plantations and industrial estates in southeast Thailand, and they wanted to do their part to end the epidemic that kills millions worldwide each year.

"In the 80s, the coffin business was booming around here. It was one family, after another," said Tanad Yomaha, a volunteer whose sister and brother-in-law died of AIDS. "The temple here had at least one cremation ceremony every night and people were in perpetual mourning."

Their quiet dedication—90 percent of the volunteers stuck with the trial for over six years—paid off when American and Thai authorities announced Thursday that the experimental vaccine had been found to prevent infection with the AIDS virus, an unexpected result that many scientists thought would never be possible.

The vaccine was shown to cut the risk of HIV infection by more than 31 percent, and while the vaccine did not meet the researchers' goal of 50 percent, it could still have a big impact. Every day, 7,500 people worldwide are newly infected with HIV; 2 million died of AIDS in 2007, the U.N. agency UNAIDS estimates.

Soon after the trials started, Kim said volunteers heard whispering neighbors say the vaccine contained HIV and that the U.S. Army—which sponsored the study with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases—was using a vaccine too dangerous to test in the United States.

Some even complained they risked losing their girlfriends or jobs after word spread they were participating in the trials.

"I was scared I would become a guinea pig and that they would inject us with AIDS," said Saichon Booncharoen, a 36-year-old, who later became a volunteer and helped recruit other participants.

US says climate bill might not pass in time

BANGKOK (AP)—The fate of U.S. legislation capping carbon emissions weighed heavily on delegates at U.N. climate talks starting Monday in Bangkok, with the Americans saying delays in passing the bill could deter commitments from other nations.

Negotiations on a new U.N. climate pact have been bogged down by a broad unwillingness to commit to firm emissions targets, and a refusal by developing countries to sign a deal until the West guarantees tens of billions of dollars in financial assistance—something rich countries have so far refused to do.

"The more specific we can be, the easier it is to press others to be equally specific," Jonathan Pershing, the chief U.S. negotiator at the talks, told The Associated Press. "We have a lot of things we want from countries. ... The less we can put on the table, the harder it is to achieve that outcome."

The two weeks of U.N. climate talks in the Thai capital are drawing some 1,500 delegates from 180 countries to boil down a 200-page draft agreement to something more manageable, aiming for a new international climate pact this year.

In June, the U.S. House of Representatives passed its first bill to cap carbon emissions. The Senate, currently embroiled in debate on health care, is expected to take up the legislation as early as this week.

But Pershing said he doubted there's enough time to pass a climate bill in Congress before the year's biggest climate change negotiations in Copenhagen in December, which aims to reach a deal to replace the Kyoto Protocol expiring in 2012.

He said it wouldn't prevent a global deal as long as "we have clear movement, clear intent and a signal from the Senate that is it is moving" toward passage.

U.N. climate chief Yvo de Boer warned that the U.S. should not repeat what happened with the 1997 Kyoto agreement, when it signed on to the deal only to have Congress reject it a few years later, over concerns it would hurt the economy and failed to require China and India to curb their emissions.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Study says China quake a once in 4,000 years event

BEIJING (AP)—China's devastating earthquake last year that left some 90,000 people dead or missing was caused by a geological event that occurs about once every 4,000 years, a study led by Chinese researchers said Sunday. Researchers said the 7.9-magnitude quake was caused by the breaking of solid rock separating major fault segments, allowing the quake to cascade along multiple faults. Such rock barriers stop the vast majority of quakes, limiting their intensity. The cascading rupture in the Longmen Shan fault zone that separates western Sichuan province from the Tibetan plateau could have been as long as 199 miles (320 kilometers), said the paper published in the journal Nature Geoscience, part of Nature magazine.

Buddhists: Police, mob force monks from monastery

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Followers of a world-famous Buddhist teacher say Vietnamese police and an angry mob have forced 150 monks from a monastery in Vietnam's Central Highlands that has been the center of a monthslong standoff. The Buddhists say an angry mob descended on the site Sunday morning, smashing windows and knocking down doors in an effort to evict followers of Thich Nhat Hanh, an exiled Vietnam-born monk who has sold more than 1 million books in the West and now lives in southern France. About 230 nuns remained hunkered down inside a dormitory and a courtyard at the Bat Nha monastery in Lam Dong province on Sunday night, said Brother Trung Hai, a close associate of Nhat Hanh's, speaking from the Zen Master's Plum Village monastery in France.

Here come the brides: Polygamy club woos Malaysia

RAWANG, Malaysia (AP)—When she was practicing law, Kartini Maarof once went beyond the call of duty for her divorce client. She arranged for Rohaya Mohamad, a mother of seven, to be married again—to Kartini's own husband. The spouse they have shared for a decade is 43-year-old Ikramullah Ashaari, who has four wives and 17 children. His 72-year-old father has 38 offspring from five marriages, without ever having flouted Islam's prescribed limit of four wives at a time. Polygamy is legal for Muslims in Malaysia, though not widespread. The Ashaari clan believes it should be. Last month it launched a "Polygamy Club" that claims the noble aim of helping single mothers, reformed prostitutes and women who feel they are past the marrying age. "We want to change the way people perceive polygamy, so that it will be seen as something beautiful instead of something disgusting," said Hatijah Aam, the founder of the club. She is the fourth wife of Ikramullah's father, Ashaari Muhammad.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Suspect arrested in Iraqi taekwondo team murders

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraqi commandos and U.S. forces have arrested a suspect in the 2006 kidnapping and murder of an Iraqi taekwondo team whose highway ambush became one of the symbols of Iraq's lawlessness during its worse years of sectarian violence. The U.S. military announced the arrest in a statement Sunday, but did not say when it took place or identify the suspect. The Iraqi military did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Athletes and sports officials were frequent targets of threats, kidnappings and assassination attempts at the height of the civil strife in 2006 and 2007. Sportsmen were targeted for ransom or as victims of the sectarian violence.

Socialists retain power in Portugal elections

LISBON, Portugal (AP)—The center-left Socialist Party retained power in Portuguese elections Sunday, despite the country's highest jobless rate in 20 years. "We have once more been chosen to govern Portugal," Prime Minister Jose Socrates, the Socialist leader, said. "This is a clear and extraordinary victory." With over 99 percent of votes counted, the incumbent Socialists had 36.5 percent compared with 29 percent for the center-right Social Democratic Party, the main opposition party. Three smaller parties also secured seats in Parliament. The conservative Popular Party polled 10.5 percent, while the more radical socialist Left Bloc had almost 10 percent, and the Communist/Green coalition almost 8 percent. Eleven fringe parties appeared to win too few votes to earn seats in Parliament. The turnout was 60.5 percent.

South African man marries 4 women at same time

WEENEN, South Africa (AP)—Milton Mbhele showed up for his wedding in a white limousine—with four brides. The women in white gowns each received rings and a kiss from the groom at a ceremony Saturday attended by hundreds of people. On Sunday, the families gathered for a second traditional Zulu wedding and planned to exchange gifts on Monday. South African law recognizes traditional polygamous marriages—even President Jacob Zuma has three wives. Yet while polygamy remains common among several tribes including the Zulus and Swazis, simultaneous weddings are rare. Mbhele, 44, a municipal manager in nearby Indaka, said the joint celebration saved money by combining the festivities.

Iran test fires missiles amid flap over nukes

TEHRAN (AP)—Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard said it successfully test-fired short-range missiles Sunday in drills meant to show Tehran is prepared to crush any military threat from another country.

The display of force comes days after the U.S. and its allies warned Iran over a newly revealed nuclear facility it was secretly constructing.

Gen. Hossein Salami, head of the Revolutionary Guard Air Force, said Iran had perfected its short range missiles to make them more accurate in tactical battlefield situations and defend the country from any attacks.

"We are going to respond to any military action in a crushing manner and it doesn't make any difference which country or regime has launched the aggression," state media quoted Salami as saying. He said the missiles successfully hit their targets.

The tests came two days after the U.S. and its allies disclosed that Iran had been secretly developing a previously unknown underground uranium enrichment facility and warned the country it must open the nuclear site to international inspection or face harsher international sanctions.

The missiles tested weren't the kind that can carry a nuclear warhead. Iran is developing such ballistic missiles, but the U.S. believes that effort has been slowed.

In this photo released by the Iranian semi-official Fars News Agency, Revolutionary Guard's Tondar missile is launched in a drill near the city of Qom, 80 miles (130 kilometers) south of the capital Tehran, Iran, Sunday, Sept. 27, 2009.

AP

But the timing of the missile tests has been widely interpreted as an Iranian show of force in the face of the international storm of criticism over the secret facility.

Tehran carried out the missile tests now "to show some muscle, show some strength, and say the game is not over for Iran yet," said Alex Vatanka, a senior Middle East analyst at IHS Jane's. He noted that Iran will be meeting with the Western powers in Geneva next week.

"They felt going into these meetings next week that they needed to have something else to bolster their position, and I think that Iran's Revolutionary Guard showing a bit of military muscle here is part of that," he said.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said she doesn't believe Iran can convince the U.S. and other world powers at the upcoming meeting that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes, putting Tehran on a course for tougher economic penalties beyond the current "leaky sanctions."

The Iranians must "present convincing evidence as to the purpose of their nuclear program. We don't believe that they can present convincing evidence, that it's only for peaceful purposes, but we are going to put them to the test," Clinton told CBS' "Face the Nation."

Honduras limits key freedoms to block calls for a rebellion

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Honduras' interim leaders late Sunday suspended key civil liberties in response to "calls for insurrection" by ousted President Manuel Zelaya, empowering police and soldiers to break up "unauthorized" public meetings, arrest people without warrants and restrict the news media.

The announcement came just hours after Zelaya called on supporters to stage mass marches Monday marking the three-month anniversary of the June 28 coup that ousted him. Zelaya described the marches as "the final offensive" against the interim government.

Zelaya, who surprised the world when he sneaked back into the country last Monday and holed up in the Brazilian Embassy, is demanding he be reinstated to office, and has said that the government of interim President Roberto Micheletti "has to fall."

The government announced the decree in a nationwide broadcast, saying it was "to guarantee peace and public order in the country and due to the calls for insurrection that Mr. Zelaya has publicly made."

The measure empowers police and soldiers to arrest without a warrant "any person who poses a danger to his own life or those of others," although unlike martial law, it requires that anyone arrested be turned over to civilian prosecutors. The Honduran Constitution forbids arrest without warrants except where a criminal is caught in the act.

The measure also permits authorities to temporarily close news media outlets that "attack peace and public order."

The media restrictions appear aimed at pro-Zelaya radio and television stations that - while subject to brief raids immediately after the coup - had been allowed to operate freely, openly criticizing the government and broadcasting Zelaya's statements.

But under Sunday's order, authorities may now "prevent the transmission by any spoken, written or televised means, of statements that attack peace and the public order, or which offend the human dignity of public officials, or attack the law."

The decree states that the country's national telecommunications commission, known as Conatel, is authorized "through police and the armed forces ... to immediately suspend any radio station, cable or television network whose programming does not comply with these regulations."

Germany's Merkel wins 2nd term, new coalition

BERLIN (AP)—German Chancellor Angela Merkel won a second term on Sunday, along with the center-right majority that eluded her four years ago—nudging Europe's biggest economic power to the right as it claws its way out of a deep recession.

Voters sent the nation's main left-wing party, the Social Democrats of Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, into opposition after 11 years in government. It was the party's worst parliamentary election result since World War II.

The conservative Merkel ended her four-year "grand coalition" with Steinmeier's party thanks to a record showing by her new coalition partner, the pro-business Free Democrats. Her own Christian Democratic Union performed unimpressively.

"Tonight we can really celebrate," said a beaming Merkel, greeted by chants of "Angie! Angie!" from supporters. "(But) there are many problems in our country to be solved."

A subdued Steinmeier vowed to lead a strong opposition. "There is no talking around it: this is a bitter defeat," he said.

Merkel's CDU and its Bavaria-only sister, the Christian Social Union, won 33.8 percent of the vote and the Social Democrats took 23 percent. The Free Democrats captured 14.6 percent, the Left Party 11.9 percent and the Greens 10.7 percent.

That gave the conservatives 239 seats and the Free Democrats 93 in the lower house—for a comfortable center-right majority of 332 seats to 290. The Social Democrats won 146, the Left Party 76 and the Greens 68.

It was a major shift from the 2005 election, in which Merkel's conservatives just squeaked past the Social Democrats.

Pope urges Europe to remember Christian heritage

BRNO, Czech Republic (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI said Sunday that all of Europe—and not only this ex-communist country—must acknowledge its Christian heritage as it copes with rising immigration from other cultures and religions.

The second day of Benedict's pilgrimage to this highly secular country was marked by a joyous open-air Mass that drew tens of thousands of pilgrims and a sober message for the entire continent.

"History has demonstrated the absurdities to which man descends when he excludes God from the horizon of his choices and actions," Benedict said.

Church organizers estimated that 120,000 people packed a field beside an airport in the southern city of Brno for what was expected to be the biggest turnout of his trip. Vatican spokesman Rev. Federico Lombardi said it was the largest turnout for a Mass in the history of the Czech Republic.

Cheering crowd members from the Czech Republic and neighboring countries including Austria, Germany, Poland and Slovakia sang and waved Czech and Vatican flags. Emergency services said 18 people collapsed and were treated for dehydration, and a police officer was hospitalized with injuries after falling from his horse.

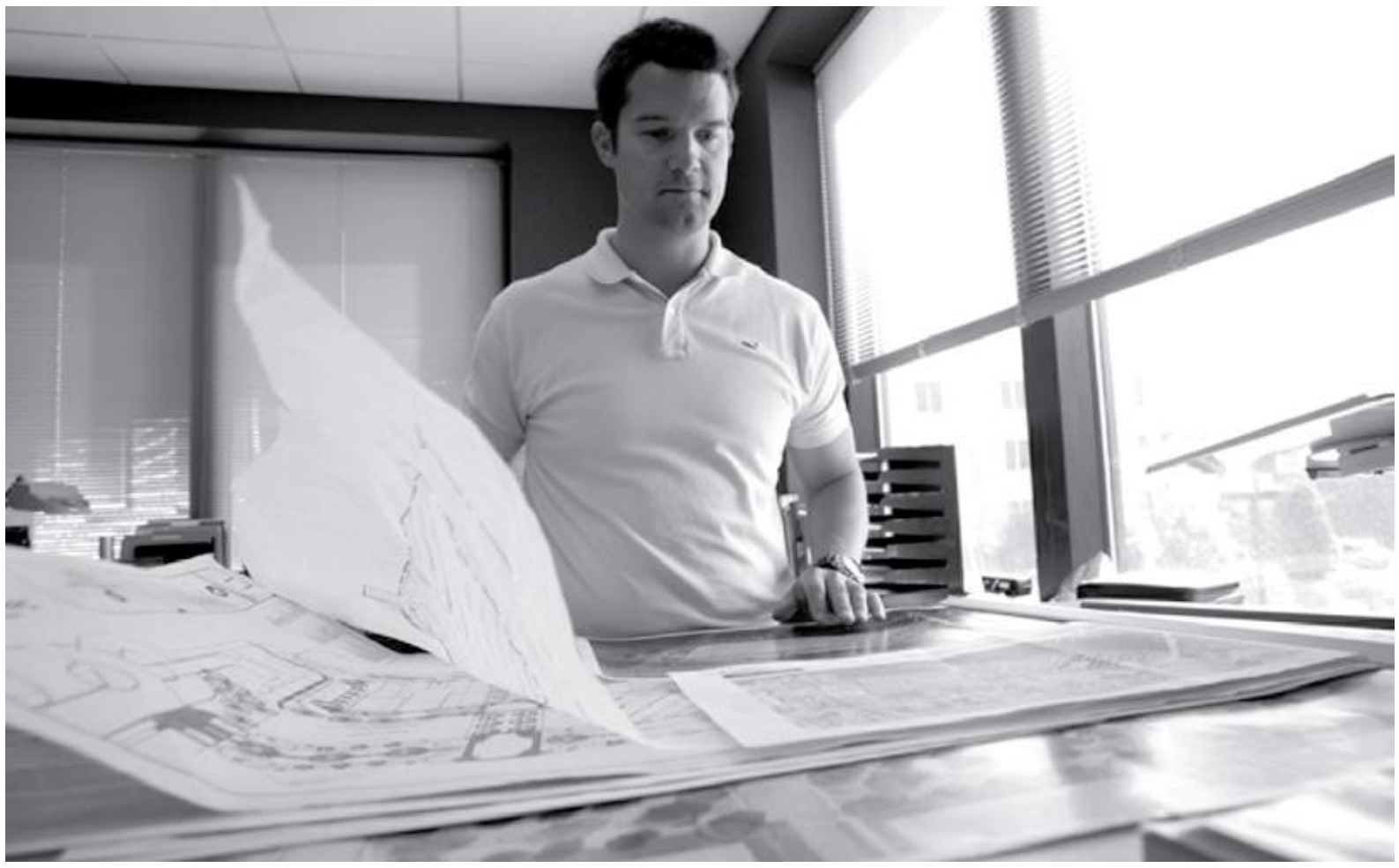
The 82-year-old pontiff was making the three-day visit as Czechs prepare to mark 20 years since their 1989 Velvet Revolution shook off an atheistic communist regime that ruthlessly persecuted the Roman Catholic Church.

The pope warned that technical progress was not enough to "guarantee the moral welfare of society."

Focus

Great Recession transforms workplace, work force

By JAY REEVES and CHRISTOPHER LEONARD
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS



AP

Rusty Meador, Development Manager for Plantation Building Corp., looks at renderings in his office in Wilmington, N.C. Thursday, Sept. 24, 2009.

Going to work may never be the same again.

The Great Recession has reshaped the American workplace and work force in ways that will last years, if not longer.

The work force is graying as college graduates can't find jobs, young workers get laid off and older workers delay retirement. People in white-collar jobs are feeling increasingly vulnerable to economic downturns, an insecurity that blue-collar workers have known for years.

Perhaps the most enduring change is the permanent loss of millions of jobs across the manufacturing, services and retail sectors.

For textile factories and service sector employers like customer service call centers, the next wave of significant job creation will occur abroad, where labor is cheaper. That trend was under way before the recession and will accelerate, according to labor economists. Americans who would have held these jobs will have to retrain themselves for other jobs, such as assembling microchips and medical devices.

For retailers, growth will be limited by more cautious consumer spending, in part because the days of easy credit are over. That means fewer retail clerks milling about stores around the holidays, and fewer merchandise buyers and other staff jobs at headquarters.

"We're in a very deep jobs crisis, and we're not coming out of it," says William George, professor of management at Harvard Business School. "It's too glib to say that jobs are a lagging indicator" and that hiring will return to normal once the economy does, he says.

The national unemployment rate, now 9.7 percent, is forecast to rise above 10 percent before the end of the year and isn't expected to return to a "normal" level near 5 percent until 2014.

Of course, layoffs aren't the only thing transforming the workplace.

The need to cut costs deeply and quickly has forced businesses to get creative—not just go the easy route of layoffs. It's the central responsibility of managers these days, says Alec Levenson, a research specialist with the Center for Effective Organizations at the University of Southern California.

Through furloughs, fewer shifts and other cutbacks, employers have reduced the average work week to a near-record low of 33.1 hours.

About 400 workers at Nebraska meatpacker Premium Protein Products were told this week they will remain on unpaid furloughs for at least another two weeks, having been on unpaid leave since June. States also have joined in, with Utah State University asking employees to take a furlough next summer after taking a weeklong furlough last spring.

Reducing hours of all workers instead of eliminating jobs of a few is a strategy that had slowly been gaining favor in recent years because it saved companies money in several ways: It reduced the need for severance packages, as well as the cost to rehire and train these new workers once the economy rebounded.

The practice became much more widespread during last year's financial crisis and is likely to be repeated in future recessions, says Peter Cappelli, professor of management at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business.

Workers aren't necessarily complaining.

Bonnie Gerard, a business developer with the Knowledge Institute consulting firm in Exeter, N.H., has seen her work week cut from five days to four. That's made it harder to keep up with paying bills. But it beats losing the job. And, she acknowledges, it's made her more efficient.

"It keeps you more focused on the days you're here," she says. "You've still got the same goals, whether you're here four days or five days, and you've got to do the work."

No matter how creative companies get at cost-cutting, or how strong the recovery is, millions of jobs will never come back, George, the Harvard professor, says.

Over the past year, the U.S. non-farm payroll has shrunk to about 131 million people, a decline of more than 5.8 million auto workers, stock brokers, bankers, landscapers, carpenters, truckers, journalists, mechanics, cooks, maids and more. More than 1.6 million manufacturing jobs have disappeared in the last 12 months, along with 1 million construction jobs and 435,000 financial sector jobs.

> *American workers will need to be retrained in the coming years to have a shot at the jobs that will be created. ...These jobs will require specialized knowledge, such as how to install energy-saving systems in buildings.*

In low-skilled manufacturing, the U.S. can't compete with countries like China, India or Mexico where labor costs are a fraction of those here. Likewise, cost pressures will continue to push information technology jobs overseas.

American workers will need to be retrained in the coming years to have a shot at the jobs that will be created. George says these jobs will require specialized knowledge, such as how to install energy-saving systems in buildings.

Community colleges and vocational schools that train people for such jobs could become as important as four-year universities.

Plenty of today's unemployed could benefit from such training.

"There are a lot of good people who are really stuck," says John Challenger, chief executive of the outplacement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas. "They've been out of work for a long time, and that's made it all the harder for them to compete because they have to explain why they have not been chosen."

A record 4.98 million people had been out of work 27 weeks or longer in August, in part because this recession, which started in December 2007, has stretched longer than any since World War II.

That has forced a record number of people into part-time work. People forced to work part-time jobs because they can't get full-time positions has jumped 54 percent from a year ago to 9 million.

For those who still have a full-time job, flexibility is key.

At a factory that makes foundry equipment in suburban Birmingham, teams that once did specific jobs—welding, grinding castings, fitting parts, assembling machines—have had to learn multiple skills.

The shop, which once had 150 workers, now employs only 30.

"The ones we have now have to do it all," foreman Gerry Peoples says. That includes sweeping the floors since the janitors were laid off. "This is probably going to linger for years," says Peoples, who has survived two rounds of cuts and is down to a 32-hour work week.

About 40 percent of workers are now over 55 or older, the highest level since it was 40.8 percent in 1961, according to a Pew Research Center survey released this summer. More workers are delaying retirement for economic and personal reasons, locking up jobs that are sought by younger workers entering the work force.

Years ago, Jerry Bannister, 67, anticipated a more leisurely routine at his age. He oversees 10 maintenance workers at the Mays Chapel Ridge retirement community and has no plan to quit soon. He took the job seven years ago, after working 38 years at a Bethlehem Steel plant.

His Social Security and retirement benefits might be enough to live on, but he couldn't quit without making big changes to his lifestyle, such as cutting out vacations and golf.

"When I get to a point where I say, 'You know, I'm as old as the residents,' then it's time to step down," Bannister says.

Fewer workers these days feel as confident as Bannister does about controlling their destiny.

Job security has diminished after every recession since the 1970s, says David Lipsky, professor at Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations.

As workers fought to get their jobs back, unions dropped long-held contract provisions like cost-of-living adjustments and job-security clauses, he says. That contributed to declining union membership, further weakening workers' bargaining position with employers.

Among white-collar workers, job security began to disappear in the recession of the early 1990s as technology allowed jobs to be shipped abroad. It may be gone now.

Over the past year, the unemployment rate jumped 64 percent for managers and professionals like lawyers, doctors and fund managers. That compares with a 56 percent increase in overall unemployment, according to Labor Department data.

Among people with a bachelor's degree or higher, the unemployment rate is still low at 4.7 percent, but it's up from 2.7 percent a year ago.

For some younger white-collar workers, job insecurity is so high that just hanging on has replaced asking for a raise or a promotion.

Rusty Meador, 35, a development manager at Plantation Building Corp., a construction company in Wilmington, N.C., walks past empty desks daily. He once worked in the office as a general manager and had a team of project leaders who reported to him from the field. Now he's back on job sites, doing the work of laid-off colleagues—without a word of complaint. Even if the economy turns around, the memory of this recession will stick with him.

"You're so grateful to have a job," he says.

Overdrive

Families 'cross over' to the smaller side of SUVs

By KIMBERLY S. JOHNSON
AP AUTO WRITER

DETROIT (AP)—Suburban mom Shana Rampersad is looking for a new family car, and it's got to be fuel efficient, stylish and roomy.

That eliminates sedans, sport utility vehicles and even minivans such as the Nissan Quest that's been carrying the Rampersads around New Jersey for years.

On the top of her list is a crossover, a type of vehicle that's built like a car but looks like a downsized SUV. They offer more storage space than a traditional car and use less gas than SUVs, which are built on truck frames. And they're a good fit for families like the Rampersads, who are tightening their belts but still want enough space to haul around children, pets, luggage and sporting gear.

Crossovers—including the Ford Flex, Chevy Equinox, Nissan Murano, and top-selling Honda CR-V—are now among the fastest-growing segments in the auto industry. Their share of the U.S. market has nearly tripled since 2002 as SUVs' share slid by more than half.

For many families, downsizing to a sedan from a minivan or SUV would be too drastic; the equivalent to moving back into a small city apartment after owning a large suburban home. The crossover offers a compromise in tough times, when parents are forced to cut back on spending, fearing they could lose their jobs or see gas prices jump back to last summer's $4 peak.

Because of a tight household budget, Rampersad and her husband have decided to wait until next year to buy a new car. And it'll be a Ford Flex, a four-door that seats seven. The Flex's rectangular design has softened angles and blends the low length of a minivan with the sportier front-end of an SUV. Its second and third rows fold down flat, creating enough room for two adults to camp out.

Although her 1997 Nissan Quest minivan is "excellent" in terms of reliability, the mother of two girls, 9 years old and 9-months in Carteret, N.J., says it's style is "ancient" and it doesn't have enough versatility.

The Flex would comfortably seat Rampersad, her husband, daughters and two small dogs on the many trips they make across the Hudson and East Rivers to visit relatives in Queens, N.Y.

"We can't get the strollers, an overnight bag and a couple of other things into a passenger car," says Rampersad, 34. "We looked at a couple of SUVs, but they were horrible on gas. Living in New Jersey, you're driving everywhere."

The growth of crossovers points to the end of supersized family rides.

"When I was a kid, it was the station wagon. When I had children, it was the minivan. In the 90s it was the SUV, and now it's the crossover," says George Pipas, Ford's top sales analyst.

In this July 14, 2009 photo released by the Ford Motor Company, the 2010 Ford Flex is shown in Denver. The Flex's rectangular design has softened angles that blends the low length of a minivan with the sportier front-end of an SUV.
(AP PHOTO/FORD MOTOR CO., SAM VARNHAGEN)

2010 BUICK LACROSSE CXS

One beautiful sedan

By WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

It is a return to sculpted metal, a flight from the boredom of strictly functional aerodynamic design.

Yet the wind dances with it nicely, easily moving through its waterfall grille and over its gently sloping hood—moving up and around its distinctively muscular side panels and beautifully tapered rear end.

It is the automobile as art, something reminiscent of the boldness of former BMW design leader Chris Bangle, but not done by him.

Instead, the inspiration for the high head-turning quotient of this week's subject vehicle, the 2010 Buick LaCrosse CXS sedan, comes from China, where high-end automotive art is taken seriously and where Buick, a best-selling car among that country's elite, is considered high end.

And the look, the new LaCrosse's striking exterior and stunningly attractive interior, also comes from Australia and the United States, where engineers and designers at General Motors, Buick's corporate parent, are determined to prove they can compete with anyone in the global automobile industry—and win.

They have a winner here. Anyone doubting that should accept GM's latest promotional offer: Buy the new LaCrosse. Drive it for 60 days. If you don't like it for any reason, bring it back. GM will refund your money—assuming you've made timely payments and haven't crashed or otherwise ruined the car during time of possession.

It's a risky offer, one that weighs heavily in favor of consumers. It could prove crushingly embarrassing for GM, a company that has had more than its share of embarrassments in recent history, if it fails.

Having driven the new LaCrosse CXS for a week and shown it to friends and others—including people who once swore they would never consider a GM product, or that of any other domestic automobile manufacturer—I think GM will emerge triumphant.

People genuinely like this one. And they like it not because it is an "American" automobile, or because they feel sorry for Detroit. They like it because it is pretty and well-made. Because, as one neighbor said, "It has an interior that beats anything in its class."

In its top-of-the-line CXS iteration, the front-wheel-drive LaCrosse, equipped with a 3.6-liter, 280-hosepower V-6 engine, also has on-road driving performance that rivals anything in its segment. But Buick's marketers must make clear the differences between the CXS and its lesser siblings, the CX and CXL, which come with smaller engines and smaller-diameter wheels.

Both the CX and CXL equal the CXS in premium styling, fit and finish. But the CXS easily matches more expensive models, such as the Acura TL and Lexus ES 350, in acceleration, ride and handling.

By comparison, the CX, to be offered with a standard 182-horsepower inline four-cylinder engine, falls short of that mark.

The mid-range CXL, equipped with a standard 3-liter, 255-horsepower V-6 and later available with an all-wheel-drive option, won't woo hard-core driving enthusiasts, people who view every turn behind the wheel as a chance to live out Walter Mitty-type racetrack fantasies. But it should be pleasing to most drivers, people who want to move from one point to another in safety, comfort and style with reasonable fuel efficiency.

The new LaCrosse is the Buick that answers the question I put to GM-China officials several years ago, when I was taken aback by the beauty and quality of Buick automobiles sold in that market:

"Why do you offer in China what you don't give us in the United States? Why don't we get Buicks we can love?"

We can love this one. Thank you, GM. Thank you, Buick. Thank you.

The 2010 Buick LaCrosse CXS sedan is a return to sculpted metal, a flight from the boredom of strictly functional aerodynamic design.

NUTS & BOLTS

By WARREN BROWN
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

THE BOTTOM LINE
The 2010 Buick LaCrosse is a genuine contender in the market for mid-size to large premium family sedans. Shoppers in those segments are well-advised to put this one on their list. People who have not lately looked at GM or Buick will be pleasantly surprised.

COMPLAINTS
Buick's designers sacrificed some aspects of visibility front and rear in pursuit of hot styling. As a result, would-be buyers are advised to take the optional rear-view camera, electronic proximity distance monitoring (for bump-free parking) and blind-side-monitoring equipment offered with this car.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING
In the tested 3.6-liter V-6 LaCrosse CXS, it gets excellent grades in all three.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT
It beats everything in its class, especially at night, when the interior is softly lit with blue accent lighting around the dashboard and center-mounted instrument panel.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT
The 2010 Buick LaCrosse is a premium, mid-size/large, front-engine family sedan with a traditional notchback trunk. It initially is available with front-wheel drive and two six-cylinder engines in three content iterations, CX, CXL and CXS. Later in 2010, it also will be available with a four-cylinder engine and all-wheel drive.

ENGINE/TRANSMISSION
It is equipped with a 3.6-liter, 24-valve, double-overhead cam V-6 that develops 280 horsepower at 6,300 RPM and 259 foot-pounds of torque at 4,800 RPM. The engine is mated to a six-speed transmission that can be operated automatically or manually.

CAPACITIES
There are seats for five people. Cargo capacity is an adequate — for most family sedan loads — 13 cubic feet. The fuel tank holds 18.4 gallons of recommended regular unleaded gasoline.

MILEAGE
14 to 20 miles per gallon in the city and 22 to 32 mpg on the highway, depending on road conditions, driving style, speed and load.

SAFETY
Standard equipment includes ventilated front discs and solid rear discs with antilock protection, electronic brake force distribution to strategically tailor braking pressure in emergency maneuvers, electronic stability and traction control, and side and head air bags.

PRICE
The base price on the 2010 Buick LaCrosse CXS is $33,015. Dealer's invoice price on that model is $31,529. Price as tested is $37,880, including $4,115 in options and a $750 destination charge. Dealer's price as tested is $35,901. Prices are sourced from Buick, Edmunds.com and Cars.com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

Life & Style

The Aubert-Mojica nuptials

Wolf, Tokie, and Adeleyah Mojica of Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, traveled to the U.S. mainland for the Sept. 6, 2009, wedding of Terrell Aubert and Nichole Monique Mojica.

The blushing bride is the daughter of Wolf Mojica and sister of Adeleyah, who was one of the bridesmaids in the wedding.

The happy occasion was attended by about 150 family and friends at the Hotel Valencia in the Santana Row complex of Santa Clara, California.

The bride's mother and stepfather are Geri Paulino Meno and Joe Meno of Benicia California.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Dorsey Hughes, Bob Mojica, Barbara Mojica, Wolf Mojica, Tokie Mojica, Adeleyah Mojica, Karen Mojica, Nicholas Mojica, and Linda-Garcia Merchant.

The Mojica clan and Terrell and Nichole Mojica-Aubert

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sister of the bride Adeleyah Mojica and maid of honor Camille Mojica.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

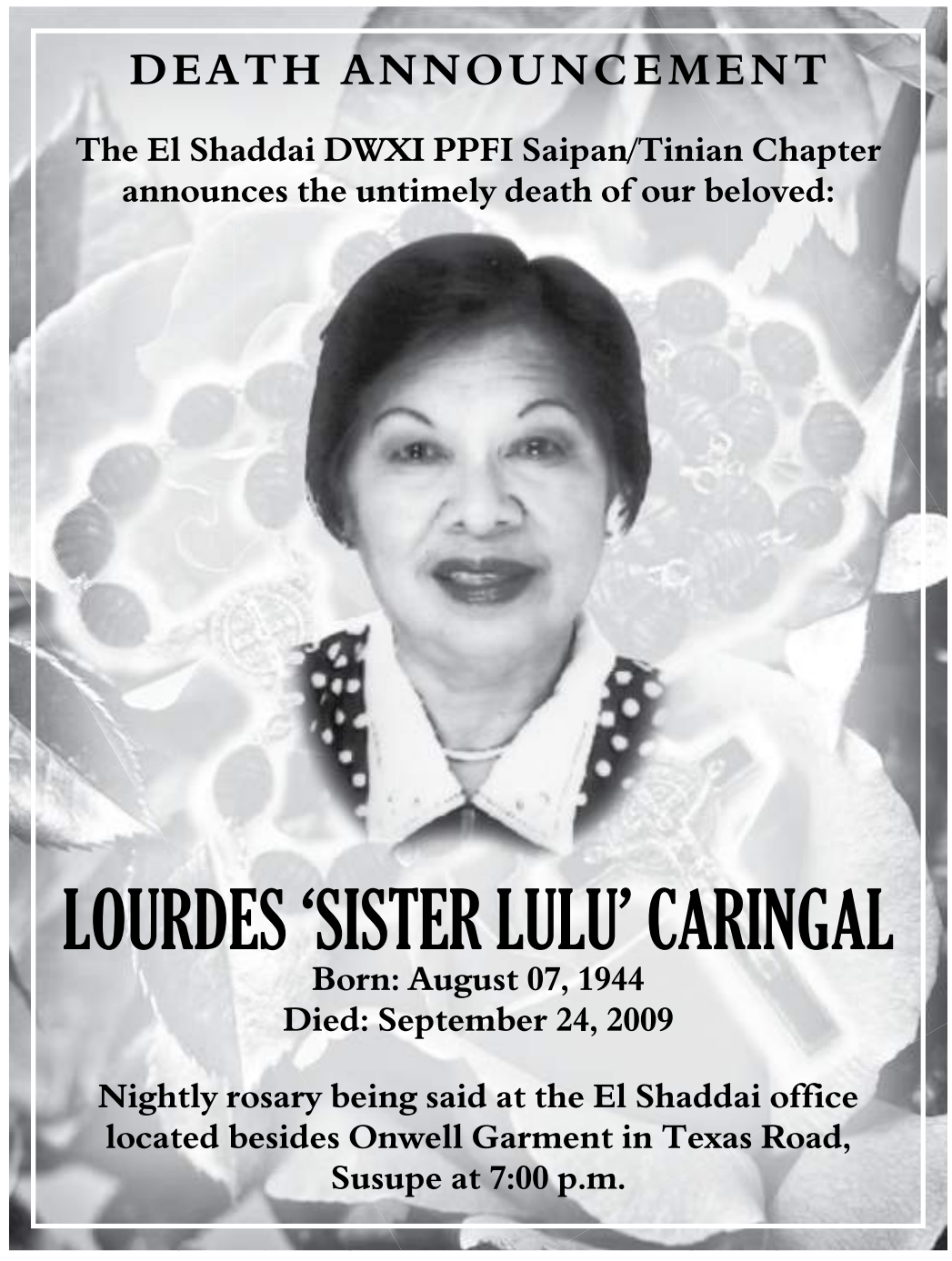
Adeleyah and the bride, Nichole Mojica.

Father of the bride Wolf Mojica poses with his daughter, Nichole Mojica-Aubert.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Father of the bride Wolf Mojica and Tokie Mojica.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO


DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
The El Shaddai DWXI PPFI Saipan/Tinian Chapter announces the untimely death of our beloved:
LOURDES 'SISTER LULU' CARINGAL
Born: August 07, 1944
Died: September 24, 2009
Nightly rosary being said at the El Shaddai office located besides Onwell Garment in Texas Road, Susupe at 7:00 p.m.

William Safire, speechwriter, NY columnist, dies

NEW YORK (AP)—William Safire, the conservative columnist and word warrior who feared no politician or corner of the English language, died Sunday at age 79.

The Pulitzer Prize winner died at a hospice in Rockville, Md. The cause of death was pancreatic cancer, family friend Martin Tolchin said.

Safire spent more than 30 years writing on the Op-Ed page of The New York Times. In his "On Language" column in The New York Times Magazine and more than a dozen books, Safire traced the origins of words and everyday phrases such as "straw man," "under the bus" and "the proof is in the pudding."

New York Times Co. Chairman Arthur Sulzberger Jr. said in a statement: "For decades, Bill's columns on The Times's Op-Ed Page and in our Sunday Magazine delighted our readers with his insightful political commentary, his thoughtful analysis of our national discourse and, of course, his wonderful sermons on the use and abuse of language. Bill will be greatly missed."

Michael Oreskes, senior managing editor of The Associated Press, who served as a correspondent and Washington bureau chief of the Times during Safire's years as a columnist, said the conservative writer was a mentor and friend to a generation of Washington journalists of all political persuasions.

"He believed in the values of journalism—of ferreting out the truth and holding leaders to account, Republicans and Democrats," Oreskes said. "Above all, he loved to encourage his colleagues to break a good story and raise hell."

Safire penned more than 3,000 columns, aggressively defending civil liberties and Israel while tangling with political figures. Bill Clinton famously wanted to punch the curmudgeonly columnist in the nose after Safire called his wife "a congenital liar."

Safire's assistant Rosemary Shields said: "Not only was he brilliant in language and assessing the nuances of politics, he was a kind and funny boss who gave lots of credit to others."

As a speechwriter in the Nixon White House, Safire penned Vice President Spiro Agnew's famous phrase, "nattering nabobs of negativism," a tongue-in-cheek alliteration that Safire claimed was directed not at the press but at Vietnam defeatists.

Safire also wrote several novels and served as chairman of the Dana Foundation, a philanthropy that supports brain science, immunology and arts education.

AP

In this Jan. 14, 1996 file photo, New York Times columnist William Safire holds up a pair of boxing gloves in this file photo taken in Washington.

Along with George Will and William F. Buckley Jr., Safire's smooth prose helped make conservatism respectable in the 1970s, paving the way for the Reagan Revolution.

Safire was a pioneer of opinionated reporting. His columns were often filled with sources from Washington and the Middle East, making them must-reads for Beltway insiders.

Author Eric Alterman, in his 1999 book "Sound and Fury: The Making of the Punditocracy," called Safire an institution unto himself.

"Few insiders doubt that William Safire is the most influential and respected pundit alive," Alterman wrote.

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Fame

Friday		4:10	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:10	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:10	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs		4:10	7:05	

Paul Iacono, Kristy Flores
Drama, Teen, Music • Rated PG

Synopsis
A talented group of dancers, singers, actors, and artists attending New York City High School of Performing Arts are given a chance to live out their dreams and achieve real and lasting fame...the kind that comes only from talent, dedication, and hard work. As each student strives for his or her moment in the spotlight, they'll discover who among them has the innate talent and necessary discipline to succeed. With the love and support of their friends and fellow artists, they'll find out who amongst them will achieve Fame.

Surrogates

Friday		4:05	7:10	9:50
Saturday	1:10	4:05	7:10	9:50
Sunday	1:10	4:05	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		4:05	7:10	

Bruce Willis, Radha Mitchell
Thriller, Sci-Fi • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
Set in a futuristic world where humans live in isolation and interact vicariously through surrogate robots. Bruce Willis stars as an FBI agent who enlists the aid of his own surrogate to investigate the murder of the genius college student who invented the surrogates. As the case grows more complicated, however, the withdrawn detective discovers that in order to actually catch the killer he will have to venture outside the safety of his own home for the first time in many years, and enlists the aid of another agent (Radha Mitchell) in tracking his target down.

Pandorum

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Dennis Quaid, Ben Foster
Action, Thriller • Rated R

Synopsis
Two astronauts awaken in a hyper-sleep chamber aboard a seemingly abandoned spacecraft. It's pitch black, they are disoriented, and the only sound is a low rumble and creak from the belly of the spacecraft. They can't remember anything - who are they, what is their mission? The only way out of the chamber is a dark and narrow airshaft. Corporal Bower, the younger of the two, crawls inside, while the other, Lt. Payton, stays behind for guidance on a radio transmitter. As Bower ventures deeper and deeper into the ship, he begins to uncover a terrifying reality.

And I Love You So

Friday		4:25	7:20	9:30
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:20	9:30
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:25	7:20	

Bea Alonzo, Derek Ramsay
Drama, Romance • NR

All About Steve

Friday		4:20	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:20	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:20	7:15	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	7:15	

Sandra Bullock, Bradley Cooper
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Gamer

Friday		4:15	7:30	9:45
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:30	9:45
Sunnday	1:15	4:15	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		4:15	7:30	

Gerald Butler, Amber Valletta
Action, Thriller • Rated R

G.I. JOE

Friday		4:30	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:20	4:30	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:20	4:30	7:25	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	7:25	

Dennis Quaid, Channing Tatum
War • Rated PG 13

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Polanski's arrest could be his path to freedom

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A surprise arrest at the Zurich airport, detention at the hands of Swiss authorities, and a high-profile extradition process that could take weeks or months. The irony is that for Roman Polanski, the acclaimed director accused of child rape three decades ago, this latest ordeal could lead to the one thing he's lacked since: his freedom.

Polanski

Polanski's arrest as he arrived Saturday in Switzerland for a film festival honor could potentially spur on his legal team's recent motion to dismiss charges that have dogged him since he fled the U.S. for France in 1978, a year after pleading guilty to unlawful sexual intercourse with a 13-year-old girl.

But it could also elevate his case into an international ordeal—involving the governments of Switzerland, France, Poland and the United States—and potentially complicate his possible extradition.

"The big issue is whether it would have been better for him to negotiate a surrender when he had the chance," Loyola University law professor Laurie Levenson said. "Now it has become an international incident and the district attorney may be under pressure not to negotiate a sweetheart deal. They've gone to all this trouble of getting Switzerland involved. It could make it harder on him."

Nevertheless, some believe the arrest of the 76-year-old Academy Award winner could lead to a resolution that will allow him to once again travel freely.

'Meatballs' sticks to movie menu top with $24.6M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Movie fans lined up for a second helping of "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs," which took in $24.6 million to remain No. 1 at the box office for a second straight weekend.

The Sony animated tale raised its domestic haul to $60 million after 10 days in theaters, according to studio estimates Sunday.

"Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs" fended off Bruce Willis' action thriller "Surrogates," a Disney release that debuted at No. 2 with $15 million.

Opening in third place with $10 million was MGM's "Fame," a new take on the 1980s music and dance hit about students at a school for performing arts.

Michael Moore's documentary "Capitalism: A Love Story" opened strongly in limited release with a $240,000 weekend haul in just four theaters, raising its total to $306,586 since premiering Wednesday. The Overture Films release expands nationwide Friday.

Overall business dipped, with Hollywood's total domestic gross at $100.5 million, down 4.5 percent from the same weekend last year, when "Eagle Eye" opened at No. 1 with $29.2 million.

While it was generally quiet for new movies, "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs" held up strongly, its receipts dropping just 19 percent from a $30.3 million opening weekend. Revenues for many films fall 50 percent or more in their second weekends.

"We've seen that not only families but teens seem to be embracing it, as well," said Rory Bruer, head of distribution for Sony. "To only drop 19 percent, it's just one of those movies that's playing to everybody."

1. "**Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs**," $24.6 million.
2. "**Surrogates**," $15 million.
3. "**Fame,**" $10 million.
4. "**The Informant!**", $6.9 million.
5. "**Tyler Perry's I Can Do Bad All By Myself**," $4.8 million.
6. "**Pandorum**," $4.4 million.
7. "**Love Happens**," $4.3 million.
8. "**Jennifer's Body**," $3.5 million.
9. "**9**," $2.8 million.
10. "**Inglourious Basterds**," $2.7 million.

Some Hollywood analysts had expected "Surrogates" to open in first place. With a production budget reported at $80 million, the movie's $15 million weekend was a blow to Disney.

"Unfortunately, I don't think this was a great moviegoing weekend, for whatever reason," said Chuck Viane, head of distribution for Disney. "I'm disappointed we're not No. 1, but very happy we beat the other films we opened against."

While "Fame" opened even lower, it cost far less to produce, with a budget of just $18 million.

"Do I wish it was better? Yeah. But are we going to lose money? No," said Erik Lomis, head of distribution for "Fame" distributor MGM.

"Capitalism" opened in four theaters in New York City and Los Angeles, its big weekend putting it on track to become the latest documentary hit from Moore ("Fahrenheit 9/11," "Bowling for Columbine").

With "Capitalism," Moore examines the roots of the economic meltdown, mixing interviews from people losing jobs and homes with his trademark stunts, such as wrapping crime-scene tape around Wall Street.

"People are frustrated, and I think Michael points some things out that are pretty thought-provoking and pretty eye-opening," said Kyle Davies, head of distribution for Overture. "It's timely. People want to see what's going on, but the movie's funny and entertaining at the same time. Michael's one of the unique people able to point to some topical issues and make it extremely interesting."

Estimated ticket sales are for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.

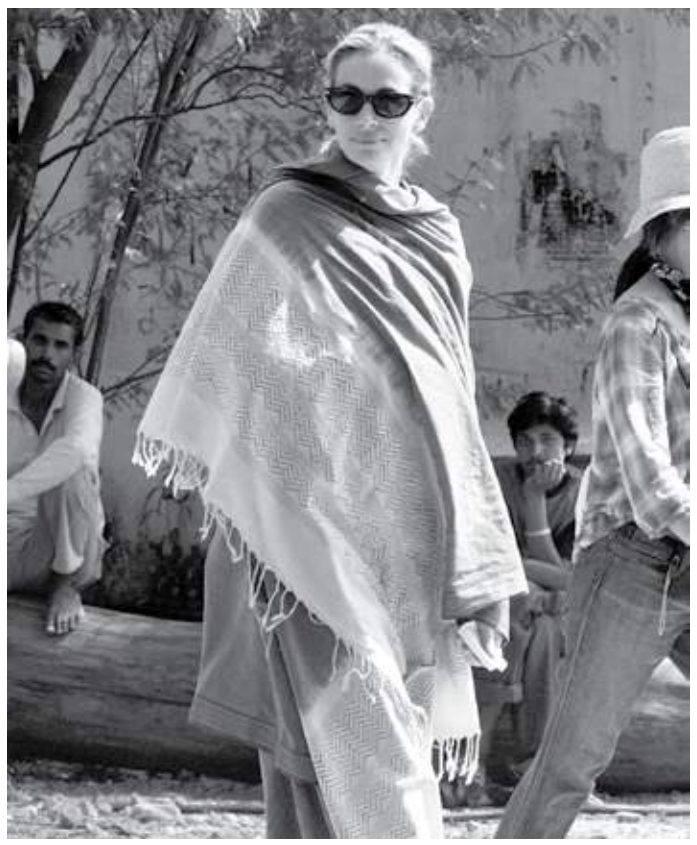
Tight security at Julia Roberts film set in India

MIRZAPUR, India (AP)—Young boys climbed trees and villagers crowded rooftops in a tiny dusty village in northern India Sunday to catch a glimpse of Academy Award winner Julia Roberts shooting her new film, "Eat, Pray, Love."

Scores of policemen, armed with bamboo sticks, private guards and plainclothes security guards kept curious visitors at bay as the "Pretty Woman" star walked about the sets created at Mirzapur village, 65 kilometers (40 miles) south of the Indian capital, New Delhi. Huge black screens protected the sets from television crews and photographers.

Roberts was dressed in a turquoise blue tunic and loose pajamas, the traditional clothes worn by millions of Indian women. In the film, she plays the part of an American woman who leaves behind a troubled marriage and sets out on a journey of self-discovery.

Newspapers and television stations in India have been covering Roberts' every move since she arrived in India accompanied by her three children nearly 10 days ago.



AP

Hollywood actress Julia Roberts looks on as she walks toward the sets of her film "Eat, Pray, Love" at Mirzapur village 65 kilometers (41 miles) south of New Delhi, India, Sunday, Sept. 27, 2009.

Security has been tight with about 50 local policemen and security officers guarding the star in the village and in the nearby small town of Pataudi, where Roberts is staying at a former palace converted into a heritage hotel.

The shooting of the film began a few days ago, and started with prayers offered by a Hindu priest.

The Times of India newspaper quoted the priest, Swami Dharam Dev, as saying he had given the names of Hindu gods for her three children.

"I have named her twins Hazel and Phinnaeus as Laxmi and Ganesh, while Henry will be called Krishna Balram," he was quoted as saying.

The movie, a Brad Pitt production, is directed by Ryan Murphy. It also stars Oscar-winner Javier Bardem, Viola Davis, Richard Jenkins and Billy Crudup.

Early McCartney musings discovered in Liverpool

LONDON (AP)—A discovery in a Liverpool library has revealed that Paul McCartney's talent for writing was winning him prizes when he was just 10—though for an essay about the queen, rather than a hit song.

A British researcher said he found an essay written—in very tidy, curling script—by the future Beatle for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

Kevin Roach said Sunday that he found the work in records at Liverpool's Central Library. Roach said the writing is "advanced—you would say it was written by someone who was older than 10 years old, more like 14 or 15."

"It's unique in its own right. It shows his handwriting at that age and shows how Paul was thinking at the time," said Roach, who is working on a book about the McCartney family history.

According to excerpts published in the Sunday Times, McCartney—who gave his age as 10 years 10 months—contrasted violence which occurred on the coronation day of William the Conqueror with the day celebrating "our lovely young queen."

"No rioting nor killing will take place because present day royalty rules with affection rather than force," the essay says.

McCartney won the under-11 age category of the essay competition, and was given a prize—a gift certificate for books—by Liverpool's Lord Mayor.

"I can just recall Paul being nervous and getting this book token from the mayor," his brother Mike told the Sunday Times.

With bandmate John Lennon, McCartney was responsible for writing most of the Beatles' memorable songs. The queen knighted him in 1997, making him Sir Paul.

Garrison Keillor hosts 1st 'Prairie Home' since stroke

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—Humorist Garrison Keillor hosted his first broadcast of "A Prairie Home Companion" since suffering a minor stroke nearly three weeks ago.

Keillor launched a new season of his popular public radio show Saturday night with a live broadcast from the Fitzgerald Theater in downtown St. Paul.

The 67-year-old Keillor suffered a mild stroke on Labor Day and spent four nights at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester. He soon returned to work and said he had no plans to postpone the upcoming season of "Prairie Home."

The season premiere was followed by an annual meatloaf supper and free street dance featuring Keillor with singer Andra Suchy (SOO'-kee), Salsa del Soul, the Sam Bush Band and the Guy's All-Star Shoe Band.

Jackson sneak peek screenings sell out in 2 hours

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson is still playing to sellout crowds.

Advance screenings to the music documentary "Michael Jackson: This Is It" sold out within two hours early Sunday as fans who began lining up three days earlier snapped up all 3,000 tickets to the Los Angeles shows.

The documentary opens nationwide Oct. 28, but fans will get a sneak peek the night before in screenings at the new Regal Cinemas Stadium 14. For the theater's grand opening, the cinema will show "This Is It" on all 14 screens that night.

Directed by longtime Jackson collaborator Kenny Ortega, "This Is It" draws on hundreds of hours of footage as Jackson prepared for a series of London concerts for which he was rehearsing before his death on June 25.

AP

Michael Jackson fans arrive to buy tickets for the "Michael Jackson's This Is It" film, at L.A. Live in Los Angeles, Thursday, Sept. 24, 2009.

'Saturday Night Live' starts season with F-bomb

NEW YORK (AP)—"Saturday Night Live" has started the season with a bang, or, more precisely, an F-bomb.

Newcomer Jenny Slate let the dreaded word slip during a parody of a talk show by biker women. Called "Biker Chick Chat," the sketch was laden with tough talk from its participants, played by Slate, Kristen Wiig and guest host Megan Fox.

But the most objectionable word was substituted, with rapid-fire comic frequency, with an inoffensive stand-in for that vulgarity.

Then, midway through the sketch, Slate slipped and said the word she meant to avoid.

"You know what? You stood up for yourself," she declared, "and I (expletive) love you for that."

She puffed her cheeks, perhaps realizing her error, but the sketch continued with no interruption or further flubs.

Slate is an actress and comedian who this summer appeared on "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon," and is perhaps best-known as half of the comedy duo Gabe and Jenny—until her memorable "SNL" debut this weekend.

NBC declined to comment on the incident, other than to say the word had been restored to the intended "freakin'" for the show's replays in western time zones.

Disabled daughter can't escape from mother's violent anger

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I need your help badly. I am 39 years old and live with my mother due to a physical disability. Mom becomes violent when she gets mad or upset. If she's having a bad day, I can expect her to be in my face (literally). She yells and screams, and if I refuse to yell back at her or try to ignore her—the only way I know how to deal with the situation—she gets even madder.

I have suggested counseling, but she insists that she is fine and that I'm the one who needs the help. What do I do? I can't keep on this way, and I am unable to go anywhere.

CAN'T STAND THE VIOLENCE

DEAR CAN'T: Your mother is an emotional mess, but she is half-right. You DO need help. And the place you can get it is the National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA). It's an organization that has been around for 20 years—and has members in all 50 states as well as Canada. Here's how to find them: Go to www.apsnetwork.org. Next, click on "Report Abuse," then click on your state.

Your mother needs help, too, and the people at Adult Protective Services can help her face that reality. Please write again and let me know how you're doing. I care.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: The day before my wedding, my fiance's aunt left me a gift. After the wedding I opened it and read the card that was enclosed. It was lingerie, which seemed like a well-intentioned gift.

The card, however, was a bit puzzling. Turns out the lingerie was her own, and slightly used. On the card she said it had been "only used a few times." It struck me as inappropriate to receive "used" (and wrong-sized) lingerie from a new aunt-in-law. However, I do believe she was well-intentioned.

Abby, her gift made me uncomfortable. Am I wrong in thinking it was inappropriate? Any thoughts on how to write a thank-you card for such a gift?

FLUMMOXED IN THE USA

DEAR FLUMMOXED: This new relative may be a "character," or she may not have had the means to buy you a wedding gift and gave you the nicest thing she could come up with.

My advice is to be gracious. Do not tell her the lingerie is the wrong size or criticize it in any way. Simply say: "Thank you for welcoming me into the family. Your kindness and thoughtfulness are appreciated, and I look forward to getting to know you in the years to come."

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: With the support of my friend "Lynn," I left "Stephanie," my wife of 17 years—after she admitted to more than two dozen affairs over the course of our marriage. I am now in a relationship with Lynn and very happy.

My problem is my kids think I left Stephanie for Lynn because that is what their mother has told them. As much as I despise what my wife has done, I would never tell them the truth. I tell them Mommy and Daddy had their "differences," but they know there is more to the story. Please advise.

ALMOST HAPPILY EVER AFTER IN UTAH

DEAR ALMOST: Mommy and Daddy did, indeed, have their differences. And there is also more to the story. If Lynn hadn't been there supporting you, would you still be tolerating Stephanie's serial infidelity? If the answer is yes, then in a sense, you did leave Stephanie for Lynn, which may have been healthier for all concerned. But since your children already know there is more to the story, tell them you'll tell them the rest of it when they are older if they still want to know. And when they're adults, if they do, follow through.

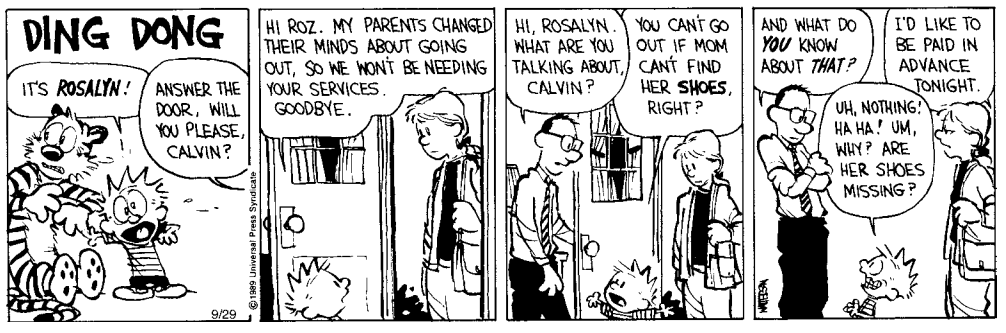
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


DING DONG
IT'S ROSALYN!
ANSWER THE DOOR, WILL YOU PLEASE, CALVIN?
HI ROZ. MY PARENTS CHANGED THEIR MINDS ABOUT GOING OUT, SO WE WON'T BE NEEDING YOUR SERVICES. GOODBYE.
HI, ROSALYN. WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, CALVIN?
YOU CAN'T GO OUT IF MOM CAN'T FIND HER SHOES, RIGHT?
AND WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?
I'D LIKE TO BE PAID IN ADVANCE TONIGHT.
UH, NOTHING! HA HA! UM, WHY? ARE HER SHOES MISSING?
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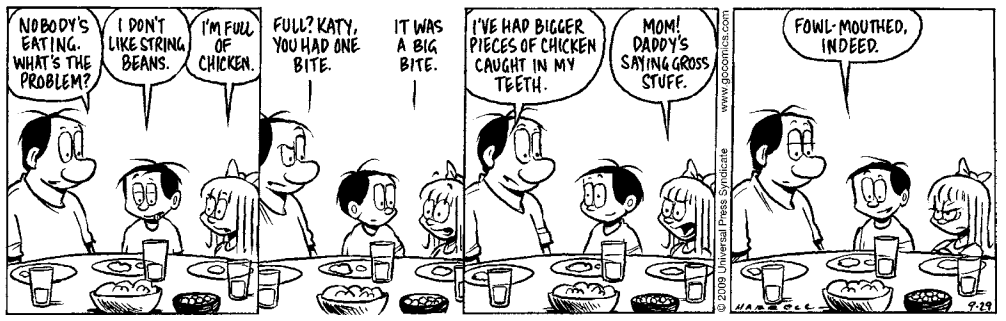
9/29

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


NOBODY'S EATING. WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
I DON'T LIKE STRING BEANS.
I'M FULL OF CHICKEN.
FULL? KATY, YOU HAD ONE BITE.
IT WAS A BIG BITE.
I'VE HAD BIGGER PIECES OF CHICKEN CAUGHT IN MY TEETH.
MOM! DADDY'S SAYING GROSS STUFF.
FOWL-MOUTHED, INDEED.
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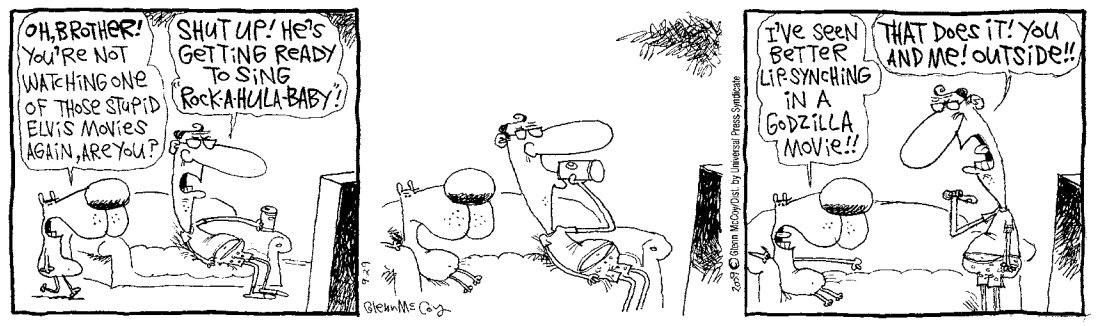
www.gocomics.com
9-29

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


OH, BROTHER! YOU'RE NOT WATCHING ONE OF THOSE STUPID ELVIS MOVIES AGAIN, ARE YOU?
SHUT UP! HE'S GETTING READY TO SING "ROCK-A-HULA-BABY"!
I'VE SEEN BETTER LIP-SYNCHING IN A GODZILLA MOVIE!!
THAT DOES IT! YOU AND ME! OUTSIDE!!
GlennMcCoy
2009 © Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

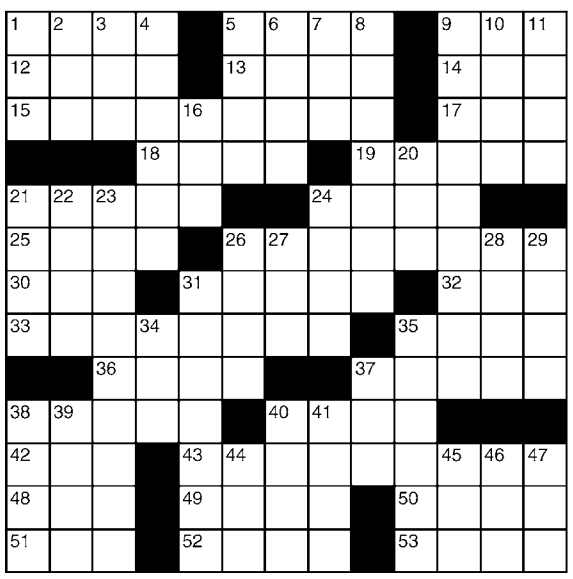
ACROSS
1 Burden
5 Tulip, at first
9 Wilde-beest
12 Crumbly cheese
13 Screen-writer James
14 Erstwhile acorn
15 Is unhappy
17 Prior night
18 Salver
19 Firetruck gear
21 Memory units
24 Bob's "Road" co-star
25 Sten-torian
26 Book before Ecclesi-astes
30 Blunder
31 Ralph of "The Waltons"
32 Mound stat
33 They drill and fill
35 Squad
36 Deadly septet
37 Treasury
38 Carried on
40 Ski lift type
42 "Ben- —"
43 Angry
48 Coach Par-seghian
49 Elliptical
50 Tittle
51 Has per-mission
52 Leaf gatherer
53 Out of bounds

DOWN
1 Vacation-ing
2 Born
3 Salt Lake athlete
4 Tended an icy walkway
5 Ali —
6 Unsightly
7 Roma-nian money
8 Marge Simp-son's 'do
9 Becomes eco-friendly
10 Church area
11 Guitars' kin
16 Former jrs.
20 Indivisible
21 Evi-denced a cut
22 Days gone by
23 Ages, maybe
24 Automa-tons, for short
26 Bridge option
27 Fabric-dye brand
28 Pitt or Paisley
29 — Club (discount store)
31 With 34-Down, broad neckwear
34 See 31-Down
35 Bombas-tic
37 Enthusi-ast
38 "Pow!"
39 Emana-tion
40 Ship-building wood
41 Ill will
44 Actress Mendes
45 Shad product
46 Greek vowel
47 Pop

Solution time: 21 mins.

P	A	P	A	■	S	I	P	■	A	B	E	L
E	L	E	V	A	T	O	R	■	R	U	B	E
P	I	N	E	C	O	N	E	■	I	R	O	N
■	■	■	N	E	W	■	T	H	O	R	N	S
A	R	B	U	S	■	K	E	Y	S	■	■	■
L	O	R	E	■	C	O	N	D	O	N	E	■
P	T	A	■	P	H	A	S	E	■	I	R	A
■	C	Y	C	L	O	N	E	■	C	L	I	P
■	■	■	L	E	I	S	■	S	H	E	E	R
C	A	V	I	A	R	■	F	L	U	■	■	■
A	L	O	E	■	B	A	R	I	T	O	N	E
P	A	W	N	■	O	D	O	M	E	T	E	R
E	R	S	T	■	Y	A	M	■	S	T	O	A

Yesterday's answer 9-29



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Erika Eleniak, 40; Bryant Gumbel, 61; Jerry Lee Lewis, 74; Anita Ekberg, 78

Happy Birthday: Stick to your plans and follow through. Don't let other people sidetrack you with possibilities that have little substance. Focus on what's important to you this year if you want to advance emotionally, mentally and financially. Your intuition will steer you in the right direction so don't hem and haw when action is required. Your numbers are 10, 17, 24, 29, 37, 44, 47

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Offering your time, skills or service will take you into a new group that has a lot to bring to the table. The favors, proposals and knowledge you will acquire, due to your kindness and participation, will help to establish your position. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Show confidence and stability. Changing your plans because someone else does will not leave you in a strong position. Refuse to let your emotions cause you to act impulsively. Your actions must reflect your own ideas. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't leave anything to chance or count on someone else to do your job. Put your priorities in order and finish what you start. A relationship with someone may not be as good for you as you thought. Protect what you have worked so hard to acquire. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You can have a new-you in no time if you make alterations to your lifestyle, appearance or even your skills—all bringing beneficial results. You will have a better chance to follow your dreams, hopes and wishes into the future. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): A relationship or partnership is possible but be honest about what you are bringing to the table. Too much talk may give someone you are dealing with a false impression. Don't make promises you may not be able to fulfill. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): The most unlikely situation or set of circumstances will turn out to be the most satisfying and profitable. Trying new things will enable you to offer more to people you work with or who depend on you. There is money to be made. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You may face a learning curve but it will set you apart from everyone else. Your intellectual input coupled with your unique skill to develop something with substance into something bold and breathtaking will win favors, friends and an ongoing respect. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You'll have trouble getting your point across to someone you are close to. Question whether you are being told the truth. Sort through what's real and what's not and don't be fooled by false impressions. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You must stay on course and refrain from making any abrupt changes that will alter the way you live or the lifestyle you lead. Travel for pleasure will ease stress but will cause financial problems. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Your intelligence and intuitive awareness will not steer you wrong financially or emotionally. Take something that interests you and rework it so it will draw interest from people looking to invest. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You'll want too much, too fast. Don't make a fuss if you don't get your way. Someone is trying to save you from making a poor choice. Listen to the advice being given and slow down the process until you have more facts. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You'll be in the mood to conquer and accomplish but don't be too quick to share your ideas, plans or success. Someone may try to take advantage of you. Put your skills to work for you. The slow and solid route will bring you success. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are inquisitive, intuitive and inventive. You have a strong sense of justice and take responsibility seriously.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	6		4		8			
4				7		9		
					9		5	
1				3		6		2
	2						4	
9		8		6				1
	3		6					
		7		4				5
			8		1		7	

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	1	6	4	3	5	2	9	7
3	5	9	2	6	7	1	4	8
4	2	7	1	8	9	5	6	3
5	6	4	3	7	1	9	8	2
2	9	3	6	5	8	7	1	4
7	8	1	9	4	2	3	5	6
1	3	5	8	2	4	6	7	9
6	7	8	5	9	3	4	2	1
9	4	2	7	1	6	8	3	5

Difficulty Level ★ 9/28

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

JAY LENO **Solution: 10 letters**

R	C	T	S	E	V	I	S	U	L	C	X	E	E	C
E	E	H	E	I	C	A	R	T	O	O	N	S	N	O
D	L	C	A	L	G	C	H	A	R	M	A	V	I	S
E	E	B	O	R	E	N	O	W	N	E	D	L	L	M
D	B	Z	A	G	A	V	I	M	S	D	M	E	T	E
N	R	R	I	N	N	C	I	F	I	Y	W	N	U	T
E	A	(N)	A	C	O	I	T	S	I	C	M	O	O	I
T	T	(I)	R	L	I	I	T	E	I	C	A	B	H	C
X	E	(R)	E	R	U	L	H	I	R	O	A	L	O	S
E	D	(G)	M	T	O	P	B	S	O	A	N	N	A	L
P	N	L	A	R	E	M	O	U	A	N	T	L	T	E
A	O	L	C	A	I	G	U	P	P	F	G	S	R	Z
H	T	U	O	I	W	F	A	H	R	U	M	O	I	I
S	T	F	U	T	A	N	O	T	O	R	I	O	U	S
E	S	E	K	O	J	T	H	D	S	K	R	I	M	S

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Angelo, Camera, Cartoons, Celebrated, Character, Charm, Comedy, Comical, Cosmetics, Cute, Douglas, Exclusive, Extended, Fashionable, Firm, Full, Grin, Humor, Jaw, Jokes, Leno, Mavis, Muir, Notorious, Outline, Popular, Publicized, Recognition, Renowned, Shape, Show, Significant, Size, Smirk, Stage, Star, Symbol, Television, Trait

Yesterday s Answer: Carry-on

NEW FROM WONDERWORD! The Wonderword 2010 Desk Calendar is now available for pre-order on Amazon.com and Calendars.com. Search: "Wonderword Calendar." Order yours today!

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Looking for Used Car, Good running condition. We pay CASH! Please call 287-7676.

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Oceanview & Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

WHATZIT Solution:
Young at heart

Name: Laurence L. Cambe
Address: P.O. Box 503672ck
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone:
Home: (670) 235-8350
Cell: (670) 989-7086

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of The	) FCD GU
Petition to Appoint	) CIVIL ACTION
General Guardianship For:	) NO. 09-0516
Cambe, Antonette Luzano	)
	)
Minor Child	) **NOTICE OF**
	) **HEARING**
	)
By:	)
Cambe, Laurence Luzano	)
Petitioner	)

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on September 30, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 205, before Associate JudgeGovendo

Dated this 4th day of September, 2009.

BERNADITA SABLAN
Clerk of Court

By: /s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

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Saipan Tribune

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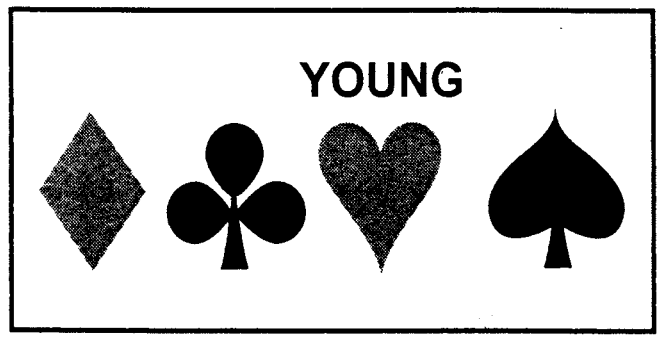
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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Find today's solution in this section

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities (Council) is soliciting applications for the position of Executive Director. The Council is a private, non-profit corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. Its mission is to foster awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth. The Council is governed by a 13-member Board of Directors that represents a broad cross section of the community.

The Executive Director is responsible for developing, implementing and evaluating a wide variety of humanities programming in consultation with the Council's board of directors. Other major duties include supervising a two person staff, administering an annual budget of approximately $300,000 and coordinating with a wide variety of public and private organizations and the general public to realize the Council's goals and objectives. A detailed description of the Executive Director's duties is available at the Council's office in Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai.

Applicants for this position must possess strong leadership, administrative, writing, computer and inter-personal skills, be able to work effectively in a multicultural environment, be able to prepare and review grant applications and annual budgets, and be knowledgeable about the history and cultures of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Micronesian region. Although a Master degree is preferred, applicants must possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited post-secondary institution and have experience administering federal programs. The starting salary ranges from $42,000 to $45,000 depending on qualifications and experience. The Executive Director serves at the pleasure of the Board of Directors.

Applicants are invited to submit their letter of intent, resume, and the names (with current contact information) of at least three references to Charles P. Reyes Jr., Acting Chair, Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities, P.O. Box 506437, Saipan, MP 96950 (no faxes or e-mails, please). The application package may also be dropped at the Council's office. Complete application packages must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on October 9, 2009 to be considered. The Council may chose to interview applicants before making a final selection. The Council is an equal opportunity employer.

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Another Favre finish: Vikes rally past 49ers

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Brett Favre threw a 32-yard touchdown pass to Greg Lewis in the back of the end zone with 2 seconds left to lift Minnesota to a 27-24 victory over the stunned San Francisco 49ers on Sunday.

An official review upheld Lewis' unbelievable catch, sending the sellout crowd into a frenzy. Some of the fans had already left after two unsuccessful possessions against a stingy 49ers defense.

But they were successful in the end, during an 80-yard drive that took 87 of the 89 seconds that remained when the unbeaten Vikings got the ball back. Favre completed six passes during the drive and finished 24-for-46 for 301 yards, two scores and his first interception.

AP

Vikings receiver Greg Lewis (17) catches the winning touchdown under pressure from the 49ers Mark Roman (26) to put the Vikings ahead 27-24 in an NFL football game at the Metrodome in Minneapolis, Minn., on Sunday, Sept. 27, 2009.

Lions 19, Redskins 14

At Detroit, the Lions ended their 19-game losing streak by holding off the Redskins.

Matthew Stafford threw a 21-yard touchdown pass to Bryant Johnson in the first quarter and the two connected to draw a key penalty to set up a TD in the fourth.

The Lions (1-2) had not won since Dec. 23, 2007 and their skid matched the second longest in NFL history.

Eagles 34, Chiefs 14

At Philadelphia, getting significant contributions from their youngsters and backups, the Eagles routed Kansas City in Michael Vick's return to the NFL.

Kevin Kolb threw for 327 yards and two touchdowns, LeSean McCoy had 84 yards rushing and one TD, and DeSean Jackson and Brent Celek each had 100-plus yards receiving and one score for Philadelphia (2-1).

Colts 31, Cardinals 10

At Glendale, Arizona, Peyton Manning threw four touchdown passes to move into third on the NFL career list for players with 4 TD passes in a game. It's the 18th time he's done it. Dan Marino did it 21 times, and Brett Favre has 20.

Jets 24, Titans 17

At East Rutherford, Mark Sanchez threw two touchdown passes and ran for another to become the first rookie quarterback to start a season with wins in his first three games, helping the Jets to their fourth 3-0 start in franchise history.

New York's defense, which allowed its first touchdowns of the season, turned up the pressure in the fourth quarter and stopped Kerry Collins, who was 0 for his last 13 as the Titans lost a third straight match.

Packers 36, Rams 17

At St. Louis, Aaron Rodgers threw two touchdown passes and ran for another as the Packers sent the Rams to their 13th straight loss.

The Rams have lost 30 of 35 since the start of the 2007 season.

Rodgers and Greg Jennings hooked up on passes of 50 and 53 yards that set up touchdowns for Green Bay.

Ravens 34, Browns 3

At Baltimore, Joe Flacco threw for a career-high 342 yards and Willis McGahee scored two more touchdowns as the Ravens cruised to victory.

After unbeaten Baltimore held the Browns to 78 yards while building a 20-0 halftime lead, Cleveland coach Eric Mangini pulled quarterback Brady Quinn in favor of Derek Anderson. The switch did nothing to turn around the fortune of a team that has been outscored 95-29 this season.

Jaguars 31, Texans 24

At Houston, Maurice Jones-Drew scored three touchdowns to lead the Jaguars over the mistake-prone Texans.

Jones-Drew scored the go-ahead touchdown on an 8-yard run early in the fourth quarter and finished with 119 yards rushing.

Giants 24, Buccaneers 0

At Tampa, Florida, Eli Manning threw for two touchdowns to help the Giants remain unbeaten with a rout of the winless Bucs.

It was the Giants' first shutout since a 36-0 home victory over Washington in October 2005. They hadn't blanked an opponent on the road since beating Philadelphia 23-0 in November 1983.

Tampa Bay has lost seven straight dating to an 0-4 December that cost it a playoff berth last season.

Patriots 26, Falcons 10

At Foxborough, Massachusetts, Tom Brady threw for 277 yards and Fred Taylor ran for 105 in New England's win over the Falcons.

Brady threw a 36-yard touchdown pass to Chris Baker and Taylor ran for an 8-yard score.

Broncos 23, Raiders 3

At Oakland, California, Kyle Orton threw a touchdown pass to Brandon Marshall, and rookie Knowshon Moreno ran for 90 yards and a score to lead the Broncos to their third straight win.

Chargers 23, Dolphins 13

At San Diego, Philip Rivers helped the Chargers end a seven-game losing streak against Miami.

Rivers scored on a 5-yard scramble late in the third quarter to highlight a victory over the winless Dolphins, who lost quarterback Chad Pennington to a shoulder injury early in the second half.

Saints 27, Bills 7

At Orchard Park, Will Smith had an interception and a sack to help New Orleans shut down Buffalo.

The Saints prevented the Bills from mustering any type of a threat through three quarters.

The Bills offense sputtered, and Terrell Owens was held without a catch, to end a 185-game streak that had been second longest among active players.

Bengals 23, Steelers 20

At Cincinnati, Carson Palmer threw a 4-yard touchdown pass to Andre Caldwell with 14 seconds left, completing a nearly perfect drive that gave the Bengals a victory and ended the Steelers' nearly decade-long domination in Cincinnati.

Pittsburgh had won its last eight games on Cincinnati's home field.

Bears 25, Seahawks 19

At Seattle, Jay Cutler miserable Chicago debut two weeks ago became forgotten when he completed all three of his passes on Sunday's decisive drive. The third was for 36 yards to Devin Hester with 1:52 remaining, rallying the Bears to a victory over the Seahawks.

Phil wins Tour Championship, Tiger the FedEx Cup

ATLANTA (AP)—Phil Mickelson had the smaller check and felt like the biggest winner. Tiger Woods was congratulated after he finished second in the Tour Championship.

Sunday was the ninth time that golf's two biggest stars finished 1-2 in a tournament.

Never have they shared the spotlight, each going home with a trophy that was meaningful in its own way.

Mickelson capped off a tumultuous summer at home with a spectacular rally at East Lake, closing with a 5-under 65 to go from four shots behind to a three-shot victory, his first since his wife and mother were diagnosed with breast cancer in the spring.

Woods made two late birdies, not enough to put any heat on Mickelson, but to secure the FedEx Cup and its $10 million bonus. It finished a season in which he won six times and was no worse than second in nine of his 17 tournaments.

"I like the way today went," Mickelson said. "I was two back of him, I beat him by three. He gets the $10 million check, and I get $1 million. I've got no problem with that. I just love holding this finally."

He motioned toward the crystal trophy of the Tour Championship, which has not belonged to him since he won in 2000 at East Lake by again rallying in the final round to beat Woods.

Mickelson finished at 9-under 271 and earned $1.35 million. He also collected $3 million for being second in the FedEx Cup. It was his third victory of the year, the 37th of his career and it pushed him back to No. 2 in the world ranking.

"It means a lot to finish the year off on such a good note," Mickelson said. "We've been through a lot, and I'm very proud of my wife and my mom on the fight that they've been through. We're in good shape. Although day-to-day is tough, and it's not easy for them, we're fortunate that our long-term outlook is good."

Woods stood on the 18th green with his biggest rival, perturbed by his inability to make putts inside 20 feet, trying to remind himself that he had a remarkable season coming off major knee surgery.

"I'm sure I would probably be more happy tomorrow than I am right now, because you're in the moment trying to win this event," Woods said. "Winning takes care of everything. But when you're in the moment out there, I'm trying to win a golf tournament. I'm trying to beat Phil, he's trying to beat me ... we're all there, and it was just a great leaderboard."

It was a great finish to a FedEx Cup that was compelling to the very end.

Three other players had a chance to capture the big prize along the back nine at East Lake.

■ Kenny Perry had a two-shot lead to start the final round and doubled it after two holes, only to implode with poor tee shots, bad chips and missed putts that led to a 74.

■ As it became clear Mickelson was headed toward victory, Steve Stricker only needed to finish ahead of Woods. He was in position until he found mud on his ball in the 16th fairway, sailed the green and made consecutive bogeys to shoot 69.

"I knew it was close, put it that way," Stricker said of the FedEx Cup race. "Whatever. I played my hardest."

■ Sean O'Hair stayed within range of Mickelson until he took a bogey on the 17th hole and wound up with a 69, alone in third.

"I was feeling the nerves a little bit out there, which was great to feel," O'Hair said. "I just didn't get it done."

Mickelson's only hope for the FedEx Cup was for Woods to finish eighth or worse, a remote possibility until Woods made his first birdie of the final round at No. 15, then ended a bizarre drought with a 35-foot birdie on the 16th. It was his first one-putt birdie in 24 holes.

Woods wasn't paying a lick of attention to the FedEx Cup, only that other trophy.

"All I know is I was three and four back, I just needed to push, needed a run or two or three birdies to get me right back in the ball game," Woods said. "Unfortunately, that run didn't happen until 15. And that's a little late."

Mickelson seized control with a 31 on the front nine, and his lone birdie on the back came from a chip-in out of a nasty lie behind the 16th green that essentially secured his victory.

Confident as ever from his putting tips from former PGA champion Dave Stockton, Mickelson rolled in consecutive birdie putts of 15 feet on No. 3 and 30 feet on No. 4, then pulled into a share of the lead with a pitching wedge that caught the lip at No. 8 for a tap-in birdie.

Mickelson played the final 20 holes of the Tour Championship without a bogey.

Woods only cared about the Tour Championship, believing the FedEx Cup would take care of itself. When he captured the cup two years ago under a different points system, he won the final two events, including a seven-shot win at East Lake.

"It feels certainly not like it did a couple of years ago when I won the tournament," Woods said. "That felt a little bit better."

Despite a one-shot lead through 36 holes at East Lake, Woods struggled on the greens Saturday and with the rest of his game in the final round. Except for his two-putt birdie on the par-5 15th, he had only four birdie putts inside 20 feet and missed them all.

"Phil played well. He did the things he needed to do this week," Woods said. "Unfortunately, I didn't putt well and consequently, I didn't push him. Phil ran off and got away from us."

Yankees clinch AL East, home field thru postseason

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Yankees wrapped up the AL East title and home-field advantage throughout the postseason, beating the Boston Red Sox 4-2 Sunday for their 100th win of the year.

Hideki Matsui's go-ahead single in the sixth inning energized the damp fans. The first real celebration at the new Yankee Stadium began with a most familiar scene—Mariano Rivera on the mound, closing out another clinching victory.

The Yankees won their division title for the first time since 2006 and, after missing the playoffs last year, let loose with wild champagne sprays in the locker room.

All alone in first place since July 21, the team with the best record in the majors can now spend the final week resting its players and setting up the playoff rotation.

Despite the defeat, the Red Sox remain in firm control of the wild-card race. Their magic number is two to beat Texas for the final playoff spot.

Mark Teixeira and Melky Cabrera homered for New York. Andy Pettitte (14-7) outpitched Paul Byrd (1-3), and Rivera finished for his 44th save in 46 chances.

Royals 4, Twins 1

At Kansas City, Zack Greinke pitched out of trouble for seven innings to bolster his AL Cy Young Award chances and Yuniesky Betancourt hit a three-run homer, helping Kansas City win its home finale against Minnesota.

Greinke (16-8) worked out of a bases-loaded jam with no outs in the third and escaped two other tight spots to drop his major league-best ERA to 2.06. Joakim Soria got six outs, inducing a groundout by Joe Mauer with two on in the ninth for his 29th save in 32 chances.

Minnesota remained two games behind the first-place Tigers in the AL Central. The teams begin a four-game series Monday night in Detroit.

White Sox 8, Tigers 4

At Chicago, Carlos Quentin hit a three-run homer in his second straight game and rookie Daniel Hudson earned his first major league victory as Chicago beat Detroit for its third win in 11 games.

Hudson (1-1) outpitched All-Star Edwin Jackson (13-8) over six solid innings, and Quentin broke it open with a drive to right that capped a four-run eighth and made it 8-2.

The Tigers had won five of six and got off to a good start when Chicago resident Curtis Granderson set a club record with his 24th career leadoff homer. But instead of another shot of momentum, they got a dose of disappointment heading into their big series with Minnesota.

Angels 7, Athletics 4

At Anaheim, Kendry Morales homered and drove in three runs as Los Angeles snapped its first four-game losing streak of the season.

Morales had three hits and Mike Napoli also homered for the Angels, who blew most of an early five-run lead before hanging on. Their first victory since last Monday, coupled with Texas' loss to Tampa Bay, reduced Los Angeles' magic number to two for clinching its third straight AL West title.

Texas comes to Anaheim on Monday for a four-game series, and the Angels can wrap up their fifth division crown in six years with one victory.

AP

New York Yankees' Derek Jeter, left, pours champagne over teammate Mariano Rivera's head as Mark Teixeira, center, watches during the clubhouse celebration after they clinched American League East Division with a 4-2 victory over the Boston Red Sox in their baseball game at Yankee Stadium, Sunday, Sept. 27, 2009, in New York.

Rays 7, Rangers 6

At Arlington, Texas, Fernando Perez drove home the go-ahead run with a safety squeeze in the ninth inning as Tampa Bay overcame a five-run deficit to spoil the Rangers' home finale.

The Rangers led 5-0 when Brandon McCarthy threw his last pitch with two outs in the eighth, after an error by third baseman Chris Davis extended the inning. Four relievers faltered after that.

Ben Zobrist hit a two-run single in the eighth and another in the ninth for the Rays, who avoided their second sweep in Texas this season.

Blue Jays 5, Mariners 4

At Toronto, pinch-hitter Adam Lind had a tying RBI single in the eighth inning and Rod Barajas followed with a go-ahead double, helping the Blue Jays rally past Seattle.

Toronto grabbed the lead with three runs in the eighth.

Indians 9, Orioles 0

At Cleveland, Kelly Shoppach hit a three-run homer and David Huff pitched eight strong innings as the Indians extended Baltimore's skid to 10 games.

Asdrubal Cabrera tied a career high with four hits and drove in three runs as Cleveland swept a three-game series for the first time since July 24-26 at Seattle. The Indians entered the weekend with 11 straight losses, one short of the 78-year-old franchise record.

Pirates 6, Dodgers 5

At Pittsburgh, right fielder Andre Ethier misplayed Lastings Milledge`s two-run single for an error that allowed the winning run to score, and Pittsburgh rallied for four in the ninth inning to prevent Los Angeles from clinching the NL West title.

The Dodgers went ahead 5-2 by scoring three runs in the top of the ninth against Matt Capps (4-8), only to let the Pirates stage their best rally of a dismal season in which they are four losses from losing 100 games.

Dodgers closer Jonathan Broxton (7-2) recorded just one out in the ninth, yielding four runs, three earned, and four hits.

Giants 5, Cubs 1

At San Francisco, Matt Cain pitched eight scoreless innings and Eli Whiteside had a pair of RBI doubles to lead San Francisco.

Eugenio Velez, Juan Uribe and Pablo Sandoval each had two hits and drove in a run for the Giants, who had lost six of eight. San Francisco remained five games behind NL wild card-leading Colorado with six games left.

Cain (14-7) gave up three hits, struck out eight and walked two, snapping a personal three-game slide and setting a career high for wins. Cain, who picked up his first home win since July 6, has not allowed a run in his last 23 innings against the Cubs.

Randy Wells (11-10) allowed five runs and 10 hits over 5 2-3 innings for Chicago. Bobby Scales had an RBI triple.

Brian Wilson got one out for his 37th save in 44 chances.

Mets 4, Marlins 0

At Miami, Pat Misch pitched an eight-hitter for the first complete game of his career, and New York spoiled Florida`s home finale.

Jeff Francoeur and Anderson Hernandez homered for the Mets. Francoeur also robbed Chris Coghlan of a homer in right field.

The Marlins were eliminated from the NL East race when division leader Philadelphia beat Milwaukee 6-5 Sunday. Florida fell five games behind wild-card leader Colorado with six to play.

Phillies 6, Brewers 5

At Milwaukee, Jimmy Rollins hit his 21st homer, Ryan Howard tied Prince Fielder for the major league RBI lead and Philadelphia took another step toward clinching the NL East title.

Astros 3, Reds 2

At Houston, Wandy Rodriguez pitched six solid innings, Humberto Quintero homered and Houston ended Cincinnati`s six-game winning streak.

Diamondbacks 7, Padres 4

At Phoenix, Augie Ojeda had three hits and drove in three runs to lead Arizona to the victory.

Cleveland throws party to welcome Shaq

CLEVELAND (AP)—Shaq got in one last party before training camp.

Shaquille O'Neal, the big man Cleveland is counting on to deliver this championship-starved city a title, was welcomed to town Sunday with a star-studded party that included sports celebrities and Average Joes looking to rub elbows with them.

Fashionably late, O'Neal arrived in an SUV at 11:15 p.m. as fans, one of them holding a life-size cardboard cutout of O'Neal in an Orlando Magic uniform, cheered on the sidewalks and took pictures of the town's newest superstar, who will be teammates with reigning league MVP LeBron James.

O'Neal has had a good first impression of Cleveland.

"It's a nice town," he said. "The entertainment is already here. Everything is here. The Browns are here, LeBron is here and now I'm here."

The 37-year-old O'Neal was acquired by the Cavaliers in June, shortly after the team was eliminated by Orlando in the Eastern Conference playoffs. The Cavs, who open camp Monday, feel he is the missing piece to help James win his first title—and Cleveland's first in a major sport since 1964.

The Cavs won 66 games in the regular season, 10 in the playoffs and still came up short last season.

With O'Neal, there are no more excuses.

"I'm settling into a damn good team, so the sky is the limit for us," said O'Neal, who has spent the past week out with James and other players at the Cleveland Clinic Courts—the Cavs' training facility—in Independence.

Fans lined up more than an hour outside The Barley House in the downtown Warehouse District for a chance to see Cleveland's newest wonder: Shaq.

Before the guest of honor arrived, former Browns quarterback Bernie Kosar, boxing champion Kelly Pavlik, Cleveland Browns return specialist Joshua Cribbs, several members of the Cleveland Indians, Olympic gold medalist Dominique Moceanu and former Cavs star Austin Carr walked the red carpet.

Kosar joked that the Browns, who dropped to 0-3 on Sunday with a 34-3 loss in Baltimore, could use the 7-foot-1, 325-pound O'Neal.

"I know he'd been great in the scoring zone," Kosar said. "I'd love to lob it up to him."

Along with its fair share of sports heartache in the past few decades, Cleveland has been hard hit by the economy. Kosar said O'Neal's arrival is a boon to basketball and the region.

"The NBA has become the haves and the have-nots," Kosar said. "We've been lucky that Cavs owner Dan Gilbert has made Cleveland one of the league's top franchises and Shaq makes us even better."

As they waited on a long line outside to get in, Lenny Kehoe of Cleveland and his friend, Derek Withrow, were excited about the chance to see O'Neal—and what he can do on the court.

"We wanted to see Shaq," said Kehoe, who is convinced the pairing of O'Neal and James will end Cleveland's title drought. "This is the year. We came so close last year. Shaq is going to put us over the top."

AP

Shaquille O'Neal poses with Cleveland Cavaliers cheerleaders after arriving at a welcome party Sunday, Sept. 27, 2009 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Khloe Kardashian, Lakers' Lamar Odom get married

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lamar Odom and Khloe Kardashian have tied the knot.

The Los Angeles Lakers forward and the reality TV starlet were married Sunday at a private residence in Beverly Hills.

The bride was walked down the aisle by her stepfather, Bruce Jenner.

Odom's teammates Luke Walton and Sasha Vujacic attended the ceremony, along with Lakers coach Phil Jackson.

Kardashian, 25, appears with her family on "Keeping Up With the Kardashians." She and her sister Kourtney co-star in the E! spinoff show, "Kourtney and Khloe Take Miami."

Odom, 29, agreed to a four-year contract to stay with the Lakers this summer after helping the team win the franchise's 15th NBA championship in June.

PILCOWA cage meeting tonight

Representatives of teams interested in joining the 2009 PILCOWA Basketball League are asked to attend a meeting tonight at 6:30pm at the pavilion across the JP Center Building in Beach Road, Garapan.

League coordinator Pando Muleta said details about the opening, ground rules, schedule, format, and entrance fee will be discussed at the meeting.

This year's PILCOWA caging will have two competitions, namely the masters and open divisions. The masters division is open for players in the 37-and-over age group.

Muleta said 10 teams have already expressed their interest to join the masters division, while the open category has already attracted five teams.

The inaugural PILCOWA caging, which the Pilipino Contract Workers Association organized in 2008, drew seven teams led by champion Diamond Auto Care. The Boy Garcia-coached Diamond pulled off an upset in the finals after stunning MIGS in double overtime, 101-99.

Hotshot Sonny Ranola made the game-winning basket in Diamond's title win, drilling a baseline jumper in the dying seconds of the thrilling finale.

Other teams which saw action in the inaugural caging were pennant champion Century Insurance, Aon Insurance, C&R Distributor, Olivos, and Pacific Trading Co.

This year's PILCOWA caging is tentatively set to kick off on Oct. 3, but Muleta said they are likely to move the opening date to give teams more time to prepare for the second edition of the league. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

MANGLONA

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female triathlete Michelle Farrier.

The triathlon races will start at 8:30pm, but registration will begin at 7am.

The swim leg will take place at the Avatiu Harbour, which is the principal port in the Cook Islands. Participants will swim two laps with each lap having a distance of 580 meters.

From the harbor, participants will proceed to the transition area near the port and head to Black Rock Store for the start of the bike leg. The bike part will require riders to cruise the airport (Rarotonga Airport) loop twice and allow them to pass two schools (Avatoa and Nikao), Avatiu Valley, and Pandanus. The bike course also features uphill and downhill rides.

The run course, which will be four laps, will bring participants to the flat main road.

Bad weather last week prevented participants from cruising the bike and run courses of the triathlon races, but according to CNMI chef de mission Michael White, Manglona finally managed to do the whole course last weekend.

Meanwhile, athletes took a break from competition in the Mini Games on Sunday to give way to the Pacific Games Council General Assembly.

At the General Assembly, Papua New Guinea was awarded the hosting rights for the 2015 edition of the Pacific Games. Other matters, such as changes on eligibility rules were also discussed.

Going into the final four days of the Mini Games, Fiji is now on top of the overall medal standings, bumping off Tahiti.

Fiji has earned 48 medals, 21 of which are gold. It also has 12 silver and 15 bronze medals. Tahiti dropped to second place with its 19-16-13 gold-silver-bronze tally. The 2011 Pacific Games host New Caledonia is currently in third place with 15 gold medals, 12 silver and 13 bronze, while Mini Games host Cook Islands has a 7-9-8 tally. Tonga completes the Top 5 with its four gold medals, six silver, and, three bronze.

Of the 22 islands/nations competing in the Mini Games, five have yet to enter the medal tally. The list include the CNMI, which has only one entry each in golf and triathlon, Guam, the Marshall Islands, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

PNG

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before the General Assembly.

Michael White, president of the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association and the CNMI's chef de mission to the ongoing 2009 Pacific Mini Games in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, said the Solomon Islands' withdrawal made the lobbying of the two remaining PGAs [Pacific Games Associations) intense.

In the end, PNG prevailed, pledging $100 million in funds for the quadrennial meet.

"In congratulating PNG, the host of the 2015 Pacific Games, like you, I am excited and enthusiastic to the future that you offer to the Pacific Games movement and its member PGAs. We will now forge new partnerships with you, your government, and our Games partners, let the planning of these Games in PNG begin," Pacific Games Council president Vidhya Lakhan was quoted as saying in the Sporting Pulse website, which reports results and other developments in the ongoing Mini Games in Rarotonga and the General Assembly.

Lakhan also thanked Tonga for putting up a good fight.

"I wish to recognize the considerable human resource and volunteer and financial investments of the Tongan government. On behalf of the council and the member PGAs, I congratulate and thank you," he added

Bids from the three PGAs were received in March this year and four month later, the Pacific Games Council visited the Solomon Islands to gauge the PGA's capability to host the quadrennial event.

Lakhan and PGC executive director Andrew Minogue came to Honiara in the first week of July. While in Honiara, the council officials met with Prime Minister Derek Sikua, opposition leader Mannaseh Sogavare, and officials of the National Olympic Committee of Solomon Islands led by president Fred Maetoloa.

From Honiara, the council went to Tonga in the second week of July. The group visited Nuku'alofa and met the Executive Board of the Tonga Amateur Sports Association and National Olympic Committee (TASANOC), chaired by Lord Tevita Tupou. The Council also talked to TASANOC secretary general Takitoa Taumoepeau and senior vice president 'Ahongalu Fusimalohi, who was also the CEO of the 2015 Bid Committee.

Besides meeting sports and government officials in Tonga, the council also inspected various facilities and venue plans for the 2015 Games.

Port Moresby was the last stop of the Council before heading to Rarotonga for the Mini Games.

While in the capital city of PNG in early August, the council met with officials of the PNG Sports Federation and Olympic Committee headed by Sir Henry Torobert and Sir John Dawanincura. The council also talked to PNG 2015 Bid Committee chair Mel Donald.

Officials of the council toured the possible venues on board a helicopter and also visited the University of PNG, which is the proposed site for the Athletes' Village.

BANMI

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starting today until Oct. 2 for a four-day course.

The course will cover administration, strategic planning, developing competition calendar, orientation on level coaching and refereeing, and introduction to mini basketball games and rules.

"With the success of the recently concluded 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament on Saipan in June, BANMI has embarked on promoting the sport of basketball in the Marianas from the grassroots level up to the elite," Rangamar said.

After the Rota trip, Rangamar will be holding a three-part series of Level 1 coaching clinic at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The coaching clinic is set for Oct. 10, 17, and 24 and will run from 8am to 5pm.

Rangamar said all interested individuals, teachers, and club coaches who wish to improve their knowledge on the sport and help move the playing standard in the CNMI to a higher level are encouraged to participate.

The course will run for 23 hours with majority of the hours (more than 13 hours) devoted to application and the rest (more than nine hours) focusing on coaching principles and theories.

The clinic is free, but interested individuals must complete an enrolment form and fill out the course outline. It is recommended that individuals in the 18-and-above age group attend the clinic. Participants must also complete the course to gain accreditation.

A similar course will be conducted on Tinian on a later date.

Registration forms may be picked up at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. For more information, contact Rangamar at 664-25-02 or via email at eli_rang@yahoo.com.

Rangamar is one of the only two certified coaching lecturers in the Marianas. The other one is Rufino Aguon, who conducts similar courses at the Northern Marianas College.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-New York	100	56	.641	–
Boston	91	64	.587	8 1/2
Tampa Bay	79	76	.510	20 1/2
Toronto	72	84	.462	28
Baltimore	60	95	.387	39 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	83	72	.535	–
Minnesota	81	74	.523	2
Chicago	75	81	.481	8 1/2
Cleveland	64	91	.413	19
Kansas City	64	92	.410	19 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	91	64	.587	–
Texas	85	70	.548	6
Seattle	80	76	.513	11 1/2
Oakland	75	81	.481	16 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	90	65	.581	–
Atlanta	85	70	.548	5
Florida	83	73	.532	7 1/2
New York	67	89	.429	23 1/2
Washington	52	103	.335	38

Central Division

y-St. Louis	90	66	.577	–
Chicago	81	74	.523	8 1/2
Milwaukee	77	79	.494	13
Cincinnati	74	82	.474	16
Houston	72	83	.465	17 1/2
Pittsburgh	58	96	.377	31

West Division

x-Los Angeles	93	63	.596	–
Colorado	88	68	.564	5
San Francisco	83	73	.532	10
San Diego	72	85	.459	21 1/2
Arizona	68	88	.436	25

Yesterday's Games

N.Y. Mets 4, Florida 0
Atlanta 6, Washington 3, 10 innings
Pittsburgh 6, L.A. Dodgers 5
Houston 3, Cincinnati 2
Philadelphia 6, Milwaukee 5
Colorado 4, St. Louis 3
San Francisco 5, Chicago Cubs 1
Arizona 7, San Diego 4
Cleveland 9, Baltimore 0
N.Y. Yankees 4, Boston 2
Toronto 5, Seattle 4
Chicago White Sox 8, Detroit 4
Kansas City 4, Minnesota 1
Tampa Bay 7, Texas 6
L.A. Angels 7, Oakland 4

x-clinched playoff berth
y-clinched division

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Jets	3	0	0	1.000	64	33
New England	2	1	0	.667	60	50
Buffalo	1	2	0	.333	64	72
Miami	0	3	0	.000	43	69
South						
Indianapolis	3	0	0	1.000	72	45
Jacksonville	1	2	0	.333	60	69
Houston	1	2	0	.333	65	86
Tennessee	0	3	0	.000	58	71
North						
Baltimore	3	0	0	1.000	103	53
Cincinnati	2	1	0	.667	61	56
Pittsburgh	1	2	0	.333	47	50
Cleveland	0	3	0	.000	29	95
West						
Denver	3	0	0	1.000	62	16
San Diego	2	1	0	.667	73	64
Oakland	1	2	0	.333	36	57
Kansas City	0	3	0	.000	48	85

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

N.Y. Giants	3	0	0	1.000	80	48
Philadelphia	2	1	0	.667	94	72
Dallas	1	1	0	.500	65	54
Washington	1	2	0	.333	40	49
South						
New Orleans	3	0	0	1.000	120	56
Atlanta	2	1	0	.667	57	53
Carolina	0	2	0	.000	30	66
Tampa Bay	0	3	0	.000	41	91
North						
Minnesota	3	0	0	1.000	88	57
Green Bay	2	1	0	.667	81	63
Chicago	2	1	0	.667	57	54
Detroit	1	2	0	.333	59	86
West						
San Francisco	2	1	0	.667	67	53
Seattle	1	2	0	.333	57	48
Arizona	1	2	0	.333	57	68
St. Louis	0	3	0	.000	24	73

Yesterday's Games

Detroit 19, Washington 14
N.Y. Jets 24, Tennessee 17
Green Bay 36, St. Louis 17
Baltimore 34, Cleveland 3
Minnesota 27, San Francisco 24
Jacksonville 31, Houston 24
New England 26, Atlanta 10
N.Y. Giants 24, Tampa Bay 0
Philadelphia 34, Kansas City 14
Chicago 25, Seattle 19
New Orleans 27, Buffalo 7
San Diego 23, Miami 13
Denver 23, Oakland 3
Cincinnati 23, Pittsburgh 20
Indianapolis 31, Arizona 10

TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

ATLANTA (AP)–Scores Sunday after the final round of the $7.5 million PGA Tour Championship at the 7,304-yard, par 70 East Lake Golf Club:

FedExCup points in parentheses

FINAL ROUND

Phil Mickelson (2500)	73-67-66-65–271	-9
Tiger Woods (1500)	67-68-69-70–274	-6
Sean O'Hair (1000)	66-70-70-69–275	-5
Padraig Harrington (650)	67-69-71-69–276	-4
Kenny Perry (650)	72-66-64-74–276	-4
Steve Stricker (500)	70-72-66-69–277	-3
Jim Furyk (438)	72-68-71-67–278	-2
Steve Marino (438)	69-71-67-71–278	-2
Ernie Els (400)	71-66-71-71–279	-1
Lucas Glover (350)	68-71-72-69–280	E
Jerry Kelly (350)	71-67-71-71–280	E
John Senden (350)	70-70-69-71–280	E
David Toms (288)	74-66-70-71–281	+1
Nick Watney (288)	70-69-71-71–281	+1
Angel Cabrera (288)	72-67-70-72–281	+1
Zach Johnson (273)	70-72-73-67–282	+2
Geoff Ogilvy (273)	75-73-64-70–282	+2
Y.E. Yang (265)	71-75-66-71–283	+3
Heath Slocum (255)	73-68-71-72–284	+4
Jason Dufner (255)	71-68-73-72–284	+4
Stewart Cink (255)	67-72-70-75–284	+4
Scott Verplank (245)	70-71-74-70–285	+5
Retief Goosen (240)	69-72-72-73–286	+6
Hunter Mahan (235)	71-73-72-71–287	+7
Luke Donald (228)	70-71-78-69–288	+8
Mike Weir (228)	72-72-70-74–288	+8
Dustin Johnson (220)	69-74-73-73–289	+9
Brian Gay (213)	72-72-76-72–292	+12
Marc Leishman (213)	70-74-70-78–292	+12
Kevin Na (205)	73-70-75-75–293	+13

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GUAMANIAN

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Jung E.T. triumphed in the closest-to-the-pin in hole No. 8 after his swing left the golf ball within 10 inches of the cup.

No player made a hole-in-one in hole No. 16 that offered $5,000.

Yasu Irinaka, who was 14th overall with a 73.6, topped the Championship Flight with his 76 gross (36-40).

Frank Castro won A Flight with his 81 gross, David Cepeda topped B Flight (83), while Tom Tebuteb was without peer in C Flight (101).

The event attracted a total of 44 players.

Senate President Pete P. Reyes thanked all players who took part in the fundraiser as well as the numerous sponsors and volunteers that made the event possible.

Others who competed in the one-day tourney were former Lt. Gov. Diego Benavente and House Speaker Arnold Palacios.

Palacios closed out with a net 73.2 for ninth place, while Benavente was 24th with his net 75.6.

"It's a good turnout," said Reyes.

He said he is also doing good in his campaign activities.

"I'm upright about it. I received a lot of feedback from the people. I thank them for all their support. As of now I'm going house-to-house and I'm confident I will make it," he said.

Pete P. Reyes Fundraiser Golf Tournament

PHOTOS BY NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Senate President Pete P. Reyes is flanked by House Speaker Arnold Palacios, left, and Championship Flight winner Yasu Irinaka.

Flight mates Asterio Tawanpay, former Lt. Gov. Diego Benavente, George Sablan, and Arthur Camacho pose for a photo in hole No. 18.

Arthur Camacho tries a par putt in hole No. 18.

House Vice Speaker Joe Guerrero putts in hole No. 13 as Poland Masaharu waits for his turn.

Flight mates Jay Cabrera, Dave Cepeda, Vice Speaker Joe Guerrero, Dave Cepeda, and Poland Masaharu pose after completing their turns in hole No. 13.

Japanese competitors Toshimitsu Okada, Kenji Suzuki, Mitsunobu Suzuki, and Eiji Fusinaga pose for the camera in hole No. 12.

Atty. Jack Torres starts in hole No. 10 as Rota Resort owner Hee Kyun Cho keeps his eye on the ball.

Eventual winner Tony Kim watches his shot in hole No. 10 along with flight mates Hee Kyun Cho and Atty. Jack Torres during the fundraising golf tournament of Senate President Pete P. Reyes last Saturday at the Marianas Country Club.

Father Manny Corcuera watches his first shot in hole. No. 11.

Former Lt. Gov. Diego Benavente tries a birdie putt in hole No. 18.

Yankees clinch AL East, home field thru postseason

The New York Yankees wrapped up the AL East title and home-field advantage throughout the postseason, beating the Boston Red Sox 4-2 Sunday for their 100th win of the year. **25**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Another Favre finish: Vikes rally past 49ers

Brett Favre threw a 32-yard touchdown pass to Greg Lewis in the back of the end zone with 2 seconds left to lift Minnesota to a 27-24 victory over the stunned San Francisco 49ers on Sunday. **24**

Manglona trains for Mini Games triathlon

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI's Joshua Manglona will be facing a tough ride when the triathlon competition in the 2009 Pacific Mini Games in Rarotonga, Cook Islands kicks off on Sept. 30 (Oct. 1 on Saipan).

Manglona will be among the 18 male participants in the triathlon contest in the Mini Games and unlike the 15 other competitors in that event, the CNMI bet will be without a teammate he can count for help during the race.

Although triathlon [in the individual event] requires one person to complete the races alone, assistance from fellow triathletes, particularly teammates, may be needed, especially during crash [in the bike leg] and wrong course direction.

Host Cook Islands, New Caledonia, Guam, Solomon Islands, and Tahiti have more than one male entry in the men's triathlon event thus their bets can help each other during the races.

Joining Manglona as the lone entry of their respective country in the triathlon competition are Fiji's Rupeni Seasea and Tonga's Alo Feiloakitau.

Cook Islands has six entries overall in female triathletes Jennifer George, Rangitauratua Apera, and Tereapii Rasmussen-Napa and male triathletes Geoffrey Colin Stoddart and Kevin and Thomas Henderson.

Fiji and Tahiti also have six representatives apiece, the Solomon Islands have four, Guam has three, and Tahiti has two. New Caledonia has the most entries with seven, while Niue like the CNMI has only one in

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joshua Manglona is seen here posing for the camera during a break in his training session on Tinian for the 2009 Pacific Mini Games in Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

PNG *to host* 2015 *Pacific Games*

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Pacific Games Council president Vidhya Lakhan, center, names Papua New Guinea as the host of the 2015 Pacific Games during the PGC General Assembly at the Edgewater Resort in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, on Sunday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Papua New Guinea won the hosting rights for the 2015 Pacific Games, beating Tonga in a close bid.

PNG garnered 25 votes against Tonga's 22 during the Pacific Games Council General Assembly on Sunday (Monday on Saipan) at the Edgewater Resort in Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

Originally, three PGA (Pacific Games Associations) made bids to bring the Pacific Games to their respective countries. The Solomon Islands was on the list, too but it pulled out its bid a few days

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CNMI's Peter Iguel is seen here dribbling out of New Caledonia defenders during the Oceania caging in June this year. After the successful hosting of the regional meet, BANMI is aiming to promote basketball in the grassroots level in the CNMI.

BANMI to hold series of clinics

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands will be conducting a series of workshops in the CNMI starting tomorrow.

First stop for BANMI will be Rota. BANMI president and development officer Elias Rangamar and BANMI Referee Association president Gabriel White will be on Rota

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Guamanian rules Pete Reyes golf fundraiser

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Tony Kim, a Korean businessman from Guam, made his weekend visit to Saipan a very memorable one.

This after Kim ruled the fundraising golf tournament of Senate President Pete P. Reyes last Saturday, Sept. 26, at the Marianas Country Club.

The owner of Guam-based company I-Tec carded a gross score of 92, including 49 in the front and 43 in the back, in the double peoria format tournament.

With his 21.6 handicap, Kim had the day's lowest net score of 70.4.

Kim was not present during the banquet and awarding ceremony.

He left MCC before the rest of the field completed the 18-hole shotgun play with flight mates Rep. Ralph Torres, Atty. Jack Torres, and Rota Resort owner Hee Kyun Cho.

Another Korean and Saipan-based businessman Yoon Jae placed second with his net 71.2.

Yoon, who has a handicap of 22.8, made 45 in the front and 49 in the back for a gross 94.

Brian Reyes finished third with a net of 71.8 after the 7.2-handicapper came up with 38 in the front and 41 in the back for a gross 79.

Completing the Top 5 with their net scores were Nick Sablan (72) and Poland Masaharu (72.4).

Sablan emerged winner for the skills challenge in hole No. 6 after putting the golf ball from three feet and 11 inches.

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NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Korean Tony Kim, third from left, won the double peoria championship of the golf fundraising tournament of Senate President Pete P. Reyes last Saturday at the Marianas Country Club. Also in photo are, from left, Rep. Ralph Torres, Atty. Jack Torres, Reyes, and Rota Resort owner Hee Kyun Cho.